

MoU BETWEEN DBKL AND MTIB



Company Profile
(Rina Craft)

"KayuTech"
Training Programme

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RINA CRAFT

Prepared by: Rahilah Yusof

Rina Craft's commitment to precision and craftsmanship has set a benchmark in the field, delivering excellence in every project. Rina Craft was founded by Encik Ahmad Fazrin Abdul Rahman, currently its Managing Director, in 2001. Being the first Bumiputera enterprise to delve in wood crafting and laser technology, the company has established itself as a pioneer in the field. Leveraging the skills and experience of its highly qualified employees, it has consistently produced high-quality handicrafts, crafted from treated premium wood and veneer, that align with current design trends.

The company is particularly renowned for its specialisation in manufacturing mihrab in mosques and various Islamic calligraphy designs, including Kufi, Nasakh, Diwani and Thuluth scripts, using advanced laser technology. This has enabled the company to create intricate and precise designs that meet the highest industry standards. Having successfully penetrated markets in the Middle East, Europe and East Asia, the company is poised for further international expansion, while continuing to offer exceptional products to the local market. From just one single laser cutting machine, the company has since expanded its capabilities to include more than four machines, enabling it to keep pace with global demand, positioning the company as a pioneer in the timber craft industry.



THE
PIONEER OF
CONTEMPORARY
WOOD ART



Ahmad Fazrin Abdul Rahman,
Owner & Managing Director of Rina Craft

Vision

"To be a global leader in innovative woodcraft, merging tradition with cutting-edge laser technology to create timeless, sustainable designs that inspire and enhance living spaces. Strive to elevate the art of craftsmanship while empowering a new generation of entrepreneurs in the laser-cut industry, fostering creativity and excellence worldwide."

Mission

"Deliver high-quality, custom-crafted wood products through the mastery of laser technology. Dedicated to providing exceptional design solutions that meet the unique needs of our clients, from individuals to global enterprises. Aim to preserve the art of traditional craftsmanship while pushing the boundaries of innovation, all while fostering entrepreneurship and growth within the laser-cutting community."

Rina Craft offers personalised laser cutting and engraving services for individuals and businesses, creating custom-designed home décor, furniture, and unique gifts. Rina Craft also works closely with its customers to ensure each project is crafted with flawless precision and attention to detail to bring creative ideas to life, combining innovative technology with traditional craftsmanship to deliver unique and high-quality solutions ranging from specialised items to large-scale projects.

Rina Craft also provide opportunities for ILP students (Industrial Training Institutes) to visit their factory and undergo training to experience early exposure to the world of machinery and woodwork. Besides that, Rina Craft also invite aspiring laser-cut business owners to share their experiences through "Jaringan Usahawan Laser Bumiputera" (JULB). This initiative has helped many individuals develop skills in laser technology, entrepreneurship, and craftsmanship, ultimately supporting the growth of the industry.

Rina Craft has been listed in The Malaysia Book of Records for producing the Most Golden Plaques (315) for a launching ceremony. This was for the collaborative partnership between LK Group and Rina Craft at KL Gateway. Furthermore, Rina Craft also did a 24-hour non-stop live on their social media platforms - Instagram (2021) and Tiktok (2023) - with both achieving their targeted sales of RM250 thousand and RM25 thousand respectively.



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“KayuTech” TRAINING PROGRAMME

Prepared by: ChM. Ts. Yeoh Beng Hoong (Dr)

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) has undertaken a significant initiative to elevate timber quality assurance standards through the development and implementation of the “KayuTech Training Programme – Timber Quality Assurance.” This programme is a comprehensive approach designed to equip Quality Control Officers (PKKs) with essential knowledge and skills to carry out their duties efficiently and with a high level of professionalism. By combining theoretical insights with practical applications, MTIB aims to establish a robust framework for timber verification and grading services across the nation.



Experts and committee involved in the development of the “KayuTech” module.

Purpose and Vision of KayuTech

The KayuTech Training Programme represents MTIB’s strategic effort to strengthen the competencies of PKKs in ensuring the quality and sustainability of Malaysia’s timber industry. Through this programme, MTIB aspires to:

1. Enhance efficiency by improving the delivery of Timber Verification Services (TVS) to applicants by providing officers with advanced tools and methodologies
2. Build competency by certifying that PKKs and technical officers are well-equipped to handle the complexities of TVS
3. Promote risk awareness by cultivating a comprehensive understanding of risk management during TVS operations
4. Strengthen timber identification by empowering officers with in-depth knowledge of timber species and properties to ensure accurate verification and grading



Safety and Health Training Section

Comprehensive Training Modules

The KayuTech Training Programme is structured into four distinct modules. It was developed by group of 14 experts from relevant fields, each addressing a critical aspect of timber verification and quality assurance. These modules have been meticulously developed by MTIB’s expert team to ensure holistic learning and the date of training modules were conducted as below:

Module 1 : Management and Safety (9-11 December, 2024)

1. Management of Timber Verification Services and Full Grading
2. Health and Safety in the Workplace

Module 2 : Timber Fundamentals (9-13 September, 2024)

1. Timber Identification Techniques
2. Basics of Wood Science

Module 3 : Timber Defects and Grading (6-16, October 2024)

1. Identification of Timber Defects in Malaysia
2. Advanced Timber Grading Methods

Module 4 : Advanced Applications (11-15, November 2024)

1. Timber Drying Techniques
2. Timber Preservation Practices
3. Timber Applications in Construction

Objectives of the Programme

The primary objectives of the KayuTech Training Program are:

- To ensure that TVS services are delivered efficiently and accurately in the field
- To enhance the technical capabilities and confidence of PKKs and converted officers in timber grading and verification tasks
- To instil a culture of safety and risk management among officers during field operations
- To provide a deeper understanding of timber science, ensuring officers are well-versed in identifying and handling various timber species

The inaugural KayuTech programme saw active participation from the first batch of 20 PKKs representing various MTIB branches and regional offices. This programme will continue to be implemented to train all PKK MTIB members.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON WOOD-BASED SKILL TRAINING BETWEEN MTIB AND DBKL

Prepare by: Norhasniza Mohd Rom

On 16 December 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL). The agreement outlined several areas of cooperation:

- Establishing collaboration to enhance the involvement of DBKL in wood-based skills training at MTIB
- Introducing WISDEC as an accredited training centre to certify skilled workers in the woodworking sector
- Strengthening cooperation to obtain technical advisory services and expert assistance related to the national woodworking industry
- Promoting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the woodworking sector to produce a highly skilled local workforce through the Malaysian Skills Certificate (SKM) certification

For the signing of the MoU, MTIB was represented by Director General YBrs. Tuan Saiful Bahri Salleh while DBKL was represented by Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, YBhg. Dato' Seri TPr. Dr. Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

In her speech, the Mayor said this strategic partnership between DBKL and MTIB will bring numerous benefits, particularly in reinforcing the sustainable use of wood materials in the capital city. Additionally, it will create opportunities to expand the use of sustainable wood materials in various urban development projects, especially in landscape architecture and urban furniture.

Furthermore, she stated that wood can be used as a substitute for non-sustainable materials such as concrete in certain projects. Wood processed with modern techniques can have a longer lifespan and serve as a practical choice for environmentally friendly development. MTIB's expertise in wood technology and applications can assist DBKL in introducing new innovations in landscape architecture. This includes the use of treated wood to construct landscape structures such as gazebos, bridges, park benches, walkways, and other decorative elements that are environmentally friendly and durable.

DBKL can also set a good example for developers and other stakeholders by emphasising the importance of using responsible building materials—in other words, materials that are renewable, recyclable, or naturally biodegradable, such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood or eco-friendly composites. This initiative aligns with global sustainable development policies, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Dato' Seri TPr. Dr. Maimunah delivering her speech



The MoU signing ceremony



OPTIMISING THE VAST WEALTH AND OPPORTUNITIES IN USA



USA flag



USA map

Overview

The United States of America (U.S.A. or USA), commonly known as the US or America is a federal republic of 50 states, comprising the 48 conterminous states that occupy the middle latitudes of the continent, the state of Alaska being at the northwestern extreme of North America, and the island state of Hawaii, in the mid-Pacific Ocean. The United States shares land and maritime borders with Canada to the north and Mexico to the south as well as maritime borders with the Bahamas, Cuba, and Russia. The country embraces some of the world's largest urban concentrations as well as some of the most extensive areas that are almost devoid of habitation. The national capital is Washington, D.C., and the most populous city and financial centre is New York City.

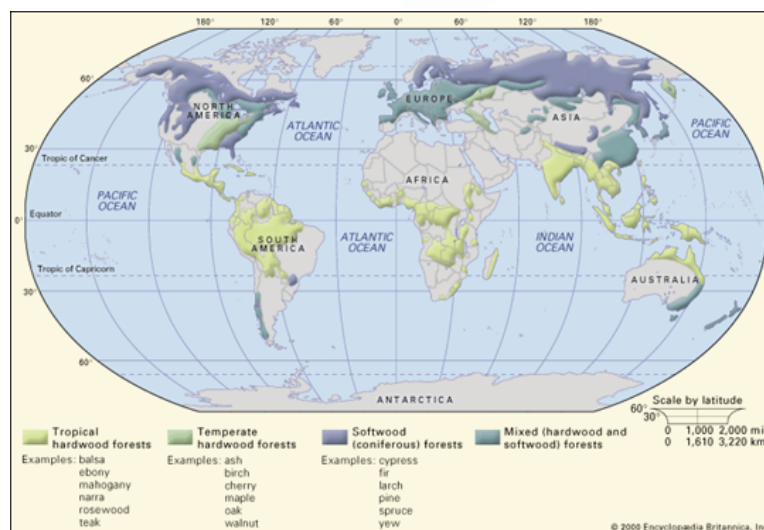
The United States is a highly developed country, and its economy accounts for approximately a quarter of global GDP and is the world's largest by GDP at market exchange rates. According to OECD, global GDP growth is projected to moderate from 3.2% in 2024, to 3.1% in 2025 and 3.0% in 2026, with higher trade barriers in several G20 economies and increased geopolitical and policy uncertainty weighing on investment and household spending. Annual GDP growth in the USA is projected to slow from its strong recent pace, to be 2.2% in 2025 and 1.6% in 2026.

By value, the USA is the world's largest importer and second-largest exporter of goods. Although its population is only about 4.2% of the world's total, it holds over 30% of the total wealth in the world. The exports and imports of the United States represent major proportions of the world total. The country also impinges on the global economy as a source of and as a destination for investment capital. The USA is among the world's leading producers of several minerals, including copper, silver, zinc, gold, coal, petroleum, and natural gas. It is also the chief exporter of food. Its manufactures include iron and steel, chemicals, electronic equipment, motor vehicles, computers, and textiles. Other important industries are tourism, dairying, livestock raising, fishing, and lumbering. As the world's largest trading nation, with USD7.3 trillion in trade (goods and services) in 2024, the USA is a cornerstone of the global economy. Currently, the USA has trade relations with more than 200 countries, territories and regional associations around the globe. The US Census Bureau reported that as the second-largest exporter in the world, outranked only by China, total USA exports for goods in 2024 climbed to USD2.06 trillion, a new record, up from USD2.02 trillion in 2023.

The USA is a leading member of several important international organisations. First, the G8 and G20 groups. These groups contain most of the countries in the world with the largest economies. It works to address major issues related to the global economy such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. The USA is a founding member of the United

Nations (UN). It is one of the five permanent members (P5) on the UN Security Council, alongside the UK, China, Russia and France. In addition, the USA has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) since it was established in 1949. NATO is the largest and most powerful military alliance in the world. Having one of the world's most powerful military and a booming economy, and playing a leading role in international institutions such as the UN and NATO, the USA is a superpower. The rise in power and importance of China and re-emergence of Russia will continue to challenge the global dominance of the USA. The United States has comprehensive free trade agreements in force with 20 countries which include Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, South Korea, Mexico, Oman, Peru and Singapore.

Forest Production



Source: Geographic Distribution of The World's Forests

The USA boasts a vast and diverse array of forests, playing a crucial ecological, economic, and social role. The USA also has the fourth largest forest estate in the world, including about 8% of the world's forests, measuring about 304 million hectares of forest land covering about a third of land area. These lands range from boreal forests in Alaska; to deciduous forests in the eastern USA; to pine plantations in the southern USA; to dry coniferous forests in the western USA; to temperate rainforests on the West Coast; to the tropical rainforests of Puerto Rico and Hawaii. According to the U.S. Forest Service, 56% of forest lands are in private ownership and the rest are managed by local, tribal, state, and federal governments. The U.S. Forest Service manages about 77 million acres of federal land called national forests and national grasslands. Most states have at least one national forest or national grassland.

Urbanisation, conversion to agriculture, reservoir construction, and natural disasters have been major factors contributing to loss of forests. Major uses of forests include timber production, recreation, hunting, fishing, watershed and fisheries protection, wildlife habitat and biodiversity protection, and gathering nontimber products such as berries, mushrooms, and medicinal plants. USA had a 2019 Forest Landscape Integrity Index mean score of 6.65/10, ranking it 67th globally out of 172 countries. The forest industry is one of the major contributors to the US economy, by providing jobs from forests to showrooms. The economic benefits of the industry are felt throughout the nation, but each region relies on different components of the industry in varying degrees: from softwood lumber and plywood production in the west to hardwood manufacturing in the east. The Forest Service, Department of Agriculture has reported that the USA forestry and forest products industry is a major economic driver, generating USD288 billion annually (approximately 4% of the total USA manufacturing GDP) with an employment around 953,000 people and contributing significantly to the USA manufacturing sector, with an annual payroll of almost USD53 billion and industrial shipments worth USD282 billion.

USA : Production of Timber and Timber Products, 2019 – 2023

(in volume, m3)

Product	Unit	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sawlogs and veneer logs, coniferous	m ³	143,000,000	148,000,000	151,000,000	153,000,000	152,000,000
Sawnwood, coniferous	m ³	60,000,000	62,400,000	63,400,000	64,000,000	63,500,000
Wood chips and particles	m ³	46,400,000	44,300,000	44,200,000	52,000,000	41,700,000
Wood fuel, non-coniferous	m ³	38,600,000	34,200,000	37,400,000	40,569,000	35,326,000
Wood fuel, coniferous	m ³	32,800,000	26,300,000	33,800,000	31,800,000	30,700,000
Sawlogs and veneer logs, non-coniferous	m ³	44,600,000	32,200,000	32,700,000	33,400,000	27,200,000
Sawnwood, non-coniferous	m ³	22,400,000	16,700,000	17,300,000	17,637,000	14,372,000
Other industrial roundwood, coniferous (production)	m ³	11,600,000	11,600,000	11,700,000	14,410,000	13,060,000
Plywood and LVL	m ³	9,925,234	9,499,533	9,704,858	9,105,606	8,781,735
Particle board	m ³	3,942,000	3,853,000	4,732,000	4,488,066	3,988,000
Veneer sheets	m ³	2,229,493	2,284,022	2,284,022	2,284,022	2,284,022
Medium/high density fibreboard (MDF/HDF)	m ³	3,184,733	2,667,145	3,023,000	2,746,000	2,272,000
Other industrial roundwood, non-coniferous (production)	m ³	2,022,600	1,637,511	1,646,000	1,988,687	1,668,332
Wood charcoal	t	852,000	852,000	852,000	852,000	852,000

Source: FAOSTats

USA Timber Trade Performance

The National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) states that the timber and timber-based industries in the USA are important contributors to the economy. Timber companies are among the top ten manufacturing sector employers in 47 states, more than the automotive, chemical and plastic industries. Many of them are in rural areas where employment opportunities are limited. Hardwood is an important sub-sector of the timber products industry and has a heavy reliance on export markets for its survival. NHLA also reported that the production of hardwood sawntimber in 2024 remained at low levels due to declining demand from the market. A combination of inflation, high interest rates, trade tensions, slowdown of GDP growth and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Europe have all conspired to restrict consumer demand, particularly in the housing sector, in the US and worldwide. Furthermore, new and costly regulations such as the EUDR and similar legislation under consideration in other markets like Japan and Australia threaten to further disrupt existing trade. These headwinds matter because more than half of all grade US hardwood lumber and veneer production is exported. Prior to the trade war and COVID disruptions, more than half of that—roughly 25% of total grade production—was destined for China.

The USA's export performance for timber and timber-based products showed stable growth for the period of 2020–2024. Export of timber and timber products in 2020 was recorded at USD10.1 billion and this increased by 24% to USD12.5 billion in 2021. Similarly, export performance increased by 7% to USD13.4 billion in 2022 and then, dropped by 8% in 2023 to USD12.3 billion. However, in 2024, the USA's export of timber and timber products increased slightly by 0.1% worth USD12.3 billion. The USA is predicted to become a net exporter of softwood sawntimber by 2027, potentially overtaking Canada as North America's leading offshore supplier. Fast-markets forecast a surge in USA exports, with projections showing exports increasing steadily from 1.11 billion board feet (bbf) in 2023 to 2.7 bbf by 2027. Table below shows export performance of US timber and the US timber-based industry from 2020 to 2024.

USA: Export of Timber and Timber Products, 2020 – 2024

USD '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Furniture	2,447,726	2,799,521	3,001,215	2,826,058	2,781,550
Sawntimber	2,561,484	3,428,939	3,393,658	2,669,421	2,712,099
Logs	1,626,489	2,145,799	1,943,010	1,612,969	1,729,398
BJC	400,630	547,270	624,010	551,796	552,772
Veneer	279,028	360,459	392,195	356,515	325,801
Plywood	227,215	370,156	364,429	271,765	271,071
Particle board	191,052	252,365	269,214	251,650	243,334
Mouldings	198,688	275,886	324,281	339,694	213,753
Fibreboard	197,348	232,822	270,310	217,749	196,599
Wooden frames	17,961	17,007	18,377	21,176	16,524
Other Products	1,955,036	2,112,383	2,840,004	3,213,019	3,299,092
Total	10,102,657	12,542,607	13,440,703	12,331,812	12,341,993

Source: ITC - UNCOMTRADE

The USA has ample timber resources, and its softwood timber industry has the capacity to supply 95% of the country's softwood consumption. Despite having ample resources, the USA has been a net importer of lumber since 2016. Its import performance for timber and timber-based products showed a mixed trend for the period of 2020–2024. The demand for timber and timber products are growing and imports of timber and timber products in 2020 was recorded at USD48.4 billion. This increased by 39% to USD67.5 billion in 2021 and it further grew by 7% with import valued at USD72.4 billion in 2022. However, export performance dropped by 29% to USD51.2 billion in 2023. Import performance recovered in 2024 with import value being recorded at USD53.5 billion, an increase of 5% due to recovery in consumer demand and construction activities. The table below shows the import performance of USA timber and the timber-based industry for 2020–2024.

USA : Import of Timber and Timber-based Products, 2020–2024

USD '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Furniture	25,814,418	31,961,324	36,139,352	27,143,452	28,962,861
Sawntimber	8,445,544	14,256,591	12,976,868	8,012,712	7,851,320
BJC	2,425,001	3,264,869	3,903,343	3,157,218	3,238,383
Plywood	2,936,460	4,528,081	4,950,677	2,919,104	3,163,678
Particle board	2,062,972	4,454,201	3,675,349	2,238,695	2,574,072
Mouldings	1,335,109	1,930,707	2,551,453	1,608,917	1,562,238
Fibreboard	1,227,234	1,534,934	2,352,668	1,390,232	1,412,348
Veneer	336,595	492,323	571,263	432,506	418,710
Wooden frames	254,897	274,972	276,902	223,938	221,632
Logs	154,744	182,138	232,912	223,103	180,520
Other Products	3,399,928	4,601,260	4,796,628	3,812,299	3,889,569
Total	48,392,902	67,481,400	72,427,415	51,162,176	53,475,331

Source: ITC - UNCOMTRADE

The USA's import performance of timber and timber-based products (HS44) for the period of 2020–2024 showed positive trends despite hiccups in import value in 2023. In 2020, USA imported USD22.6 billion and this increased by 57% to USD35.5 billion in 2021. In 2022, import value grew by 2% to USD36.3 billion but in 2023, import dropped by 34% to USD24.0 billion. However, import of timber and timber products (HS44) rebounded by 2% to USD24.5 billion in 2024. Canada is the USA's major supply country, followed by China, Brazil, Chile and Viet Nam. Malaysia ranked 11th with import value worth USD351.0 million in 2024. The table below shows the USA's major supply countries for timber and timber products (HS44) from 2020–2024.

USA: Major Supply Countries for Timber & Timber-based Products (HS44), 2020–2024

						USD '000
Rank	Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	World	22,578,485	35,520,074	36,288,065	24,018,724	24,512,470
1	Canada	11,297,362	19,378,505	17,101,788	11,450,584	11,587,562
2	China	2,696,534	3,357,263	3,346,880	2,158,492	2,173,350
3	Brazil	1,598,921	2,351,616	2,884,175	1,635,151	1,701,494
4	Chile	999,545	1,249,785	1,914,046	1,136,861	1,122,696
5	Viet Nam	643,641	982,995	1,279,925	868,767	1,109,695
6	Germany	836,616	1,213,982	1,348,507	977,617	832,934
7	Indonesia	597,403	1,082,053	1,419,846	667,323	800,331
8	Mexico	528,737	782,067	845,509	737,651	705,479
9	Cambodia	211,261	324,342	376,295	334,065	405,035
10	Sweden	290,661	401,074	586,253	420,702	385,720
11	Malaysia	216,464	300,376	514,570	290,761	350,986
	Others	2,661,343	4,096,015	4,670,275	3,340,746	3,337,187

Source: ITC - UNCOMTRADE

Note: Malaysia ranked 11th from 179 countries

In 2020, USA imported USD25.8 billion of furniture and parts from the world and the amount increased by 24% to USD32.0 billion in 2021. Similarly, in 2022, import performance remained steady with an increase of import by 13% to USD36.1 billion. However, in 2023, import reduced by 25% to USD27.1 billion and this improved by 7% to USD29.0 billion in 2024. Viet Nam is the top supply country for furniture and parts to the USA, followed by China, Canada and Mexico. Malaysia ranked 5th among the USA's supply countries for furniture and parts in 2024. The table below shows the USA's major supply countries for furniture and parts (HS9403) from 2020–2024.

USA: Major Supply Countries for Furniture and Parts (HS9403), 2020 – 2024

USD'000

Rank	Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	World	25,814,418	31,961,324	36,139,352	27,143,452	28,962,861
1	Viet Nam	6,835,787	8,209,431	9,758,420	6,816,645	8,294,706
2	China	7,709,208	9,460,406	9,314,921	6,402,660	6,599,070
3	Canada	2,213,577	2,511,256	2,997,728	3,038,050	2,941,840
4	Mexico	1,511,757	2,079,288	2,647,728	2,465,823	2,262,954
5	Malaysia	1,673,660	1,750,976	2,001,446	1,170,906	1,333,125
6	Italy	860,298	1,138,516	1,464,802	1,247,746	1,282,737
7	Taipei, Chinese	1,006,888	1,142,126	1,070,864	821,222	831,228
8	Indonesia	729,635	1,003,019	1,186,091	727,018	724,682
9	India	491,162	799,714	897,509	684,775	683,830
10	Thailand	456,546	616,473	762,170	539,857	651,327
	Others	2,325,898	3,250,116	4,037,677	3,228,745	3,357,364

Source: ITC - UNCOMTRADE

Note: Malaysia ranked 5th from 197 countries

Malaysia - USA Timber Trade Performance

The USA remained as the top export market for Malaysia's timber products and continues to be the largest market for Malaysia's wooden furniture. In 2021, export of Malaysian timber and timber products to the USA registered an increase of 5% to RM7.8 billion from RM7.5 billion in 2020. However, for the period of 2022-2023, export to the USA dropped by 1% worth RM7.7 billion in 2022 and this further plummeted by 26% to RM5.7 billion. However, export to the USA recovered by 14% to RM6.5 billion in 2024. Wooden furniture dominated the market share of Malaysian timber and timber products with 77% worth RM5.0 billion, followed by mouldings at RM419.7 million and BJC at RM375.4 million in 2024. The table below shows export of Malaysian timber and timber products to USA from 2020-2024.

Malaysia : Export of Timber and Timber Products to the USA, 2020-2024

FOB Value : RM

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden Furniture	6,613,230,769	6,434,668,592	6,270,774,560	4,504,847,891	4,988,894,440
Mouldings	95,919,996	136,216,259	162,387,305	229,174,403	419,703,820
BJC	203,176,092	270,269,975	370,522,193	307,326,487	375,426,487
Plywood	348,295,547	542,908,608	416,409,021	202,171,383	232,321,050
Sawntimber	40,274,238	59,513,243	103,876,421	108,604,509	72,227,086
Fibreboard	39,186,902	31,046,981	49,704,031	46,721,464	50,098,669
Veneer	4,968,818	4,533,571	7,263,286	11,104,714	11,395,554
Chipboard/ Particleboard	42,099	307,001	2,329,105	581,803	656,484
Logs	0	0	0	0	118,669
Other Products	120,680,428	326,214,082	325,633,089	292,754,971	363,578,073
TOTAL	7,465,774,889	7,805,678,312	7,708,899,011	5,703,287,625	6,514,420,332

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Meanwhile, import of Malaysian timber and timber products from the USA in 2021 increased by 32% to RM421.9 million from RM320.7 million in 2020. Malaysia continued to increase buying by 33% worth RM562.1 million in 2022. Intake from the USA dropped by 39% to RM342.2 million and it rebounded by 20% to RM412.0 million in 2024. Sawntimber was the main product imported with a total value of RM58.0 million, followed by veneer at RM16.2 million and wooden furniture at RM6.6 million in 2024. The table below shows import of Malaysian timber and timber products from the USA in 2020–2024.

Malaysia : Import of Timber & Timber Products from the USA, 2020–2024

Products	FOB Value RM				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sawntimber	70,298,538	79,773,740	85,835,606	42,566,873	57,986,108
Veneer	31,208,308	26,551,681	20,561,348	20,681,085	16,173,307
Wooden Furniture	10,023,186	60,287,570	26,584,104	22,406,607	6,605,804
BJC	16,826	165,783	18,019	688,964	637,341
Logs	1,136,470	346,797	170,754	483,983	163,289
Mouldings	51,389	0	0	172	15,007
Plywood	23,785	198,666	19,845	61,684	5,797
Fibreboard	7,696	87,035	383,808	116,749	4,014
Chipboard/ Particleboard	0	0	17,247	3,125	2,623
Other Products	207,939,640	254,441,616	428,515,269	255,222,056	330,376,862
TOTAL	320,705,838	421,852,888	562,106,000	342,231,298	411,970,152

Source : DOSM & MTIB

Free Trade Agreement And Import Tariff

Currently, Malaysia does not have a free trade agreement (FTA) in force with the USA. In May 2022, the USA initiated the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) as a key economic initiative in the Indo-Pacific region to foster cooperation and integration on various economic issues with its 14 partner countries, namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the USA, and Viet Nam. The framework aims to advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness for the economies of the participating countries. It seeks to foster economic activity and investment, promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and benefit workers and consumers across the region. IPEF consists of four pillars, namely, Trade (Connected Economy), Supply Chains (Resilient Economy), Clean Economy and Fair Economy. However, IPEF is still being negotiated in key areas and its success hinges on addressing critical design and implementation challenges. The framework's reliance on voluntary commitments, coupled with the absence of legally binding disciplines and enforceable mechanisms, raises concerns about IPEF's long-term effectiveness and sustainability.

Import tariffs for timber and timber products including furniture in the USA are ranged between 0% to 8% and the table below displays its details.

Import Tariff (2024)

Products	MFN (%)	
	Malaysia	USA
4403 Logs	0	0
4407 Sawntimber	0	0
4408 Veneer	0	0
4409 Mouldings	0	0 - 4.9
4410 Chipboard/Particleboard	20	0
4411 Fibreboard	20	0 - 6
4412 Plywood	25 - 35	0 - 8
4414 Wooden frames	20	3.9
4418 BJC	5 - 20	0 - 8
9401 Seats and parts thereof	0 - 30	0
9403 Wooden furniture	0	0

Source: World Trade Organization

Outlook And Prospects

While the USA housing market in early 2025 is showing signs of slow to moderate growth, forecasts suggest a potential uptick in the latter half of the year and into 2026. Lower interest rates, anticipated later in 2025, could spur new housing starts and increase demand for lumber and other wood products. Repair and Remodelling (R&R) for the home renovation sector is expected to see a gradual recovery as economic conditions improve, and consumer spending habits normalise. Analysts predict stronger timber prices in 2025 compared to the previous two to three years, driven by supply shortages, potential tariffs on Canadian imports, and increased rebuilding efforts after natural disasters. The USA remains an attractive destination for forest product investments, potentially leading to acquisitions and increased market activity. The increasing emphasis on supply chain transparency, driven by regulations and consumer demand for sustainable products, could create opportunities for well-managed US forests.

Amongst the challenges that will hamper the timber industry in USA are the countervailing (anti-subsidy) and anti-dumping duties on Canadian lumber that are currently stand at 14.5% that could impact the US market, resulting in rising costs and potentially leading to greater reliance on domestic timber. While the duties may reduce Canadian imports and promote USA domestic production in the long run, they may drive up construction costs in the short run. Furthermore, mill closures, and the time required for renovations and expansions to increase production capacity could lead to continued supply challenges. While interest rates are expected to decline, any significant volatility could impact housing affordability and thus demand for timber. In addition, the industry will also need to navigate potential challenges related to trade policies, geopolitical constraints, and economic fluctuations. The focus on sustainable practices and supply chain transparency could also present both opportunities and challenges for the sector. There are strong concerns on the establishment of tariffs or quantitative restrictions on imports of timber, lumber, and their derivative products such as paper, cardboard, and pulp. Imports of these goods do not represent a national security risk and by imposing tariffs on these goods would raise costs for USA businesses and home construction, undermine the export success enjoyed by the USA paper industry, and reduce incomes in the local communities.

The USA government is increasingly emphasising the use of domestically sourced timber, even in military applications, citing environmental concerns and national security. While Malaysian timber is often certified as sustainable, a push for greater transparency in supply chains by USA buyers could require more stringent and costly certifications for Malaysian exporters. The near-term prospects for direct Malaysian timber exports to the US market look challenging due to the newly imposed tariffs and competition with other competitors. The potential for Malaysia export of timber and timber products to the USA market presents a mixed outlook, facing both opportunities and significant challenges.



Source:

MTIB, DOSM, FAO, ITC-COMTRADE

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NOVEMBER 2024

Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in November 2024 increased by 2% in value totalled at RM1.9 billion from the previous month while the cumulative export for the period of January – November 2024 grew by 5% valued at RM20.9 billion over RM19.8 billion in the previous corresponding year. According to fordaq.com, China's Tariff adjustment Plan for 2025 has been announced and China will adjust the import tariff rates on certain goods as of 1 January 2025 in an effort to expand domestic demand and advance high-standard production. Provisional import tariffs lower than the most-favoured nation rates will be applied to 935 commodities as part of the annual tariff adjustment plan. This plan will help increase the imports of quality products. The tariff rates for imported wood products, including wood and bamboo charcoal, veneer, wood floor, fibreboard, plywood, wooden doors, wood formwork, wooden pallets, barrels and wooden tools, cork and cork products, bamboo and rattan products have been adjusted. Under 24 free trade and preferential trade arrangements, conventional tariff rates will be applied to certain products from 34 countries and regions in 2025 as part of China's efforts to expand its globally oriented free trade areas. China will also continue to offer zero-tariff treatment on 100% of tariff lines in 2025 to the 43 least developed countries with which it has diplomatic relations in a bid to support their development and foster mutual benefits.

SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in November 2024 decreased by 19% in volume and 16% in value to 72,931 m³ totalling at RM145.4 million as compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative exports for the period of January–November 2024 decreased by 4% in volume and 9% in value to 901,644 m³ totalling at RM1.9 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to the EU for the month were recorded at 2,418 m³ decreased by 62% as compared to 6,272 m³ in the previous month. The Netherlands as the main buyer decreased imports by 53% to 946 m³ from 1,992 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to Belgium also decreased

by 69% to 462 m³ followed by Greece with a decrease of 39% to 276 m³ respectively. In other parts of Europe, exports to the UK also decreased by 18% to 623 m³ from 756 m³ in the previous month.

Total export to South Asia decreased by 14% to 11,978 m³ from 13,890 m³ as recorded in the previous month. India as the main buyer from South Asia decreased imports by 5% to 7,855 m³ from 8,281 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Similarly, exports to Sri Lanka decreased by 28% to 1,748 m³ followed by Maldives with a decrease of 10% to 1,468 m³.

Elsewhere, total export to West Asia decreased by 42% to 13,400 m³ from 23,201 m³ as recorded in the previous month. The UAE as the main buyer decreased their imports by 27% to 4,410 m³ from 6,001 m³ as recorded last month. Likewise, exports to Yemen also decreased by 43% to 3,480 m³ compared to 6,111 m³ in the previous month followed by Iraq with a decrease of 5% to 1,800 m³.

Shipments to East Asia increased by 44% to 26,122 m³ from 18,207 m³ in October 2024. China as the main buyer increased purchases by 50% to 16,814 m³ from 11,179 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Taiwan also increased by 57% to 5,054 m³ from 3,223 m³ last month followed by Japan with an increase of 15% to 2,950 m³ compared to 2,565 in the previous month.

Meanwhile, buying from ASEAN decreased by 34% to 15,060 m³ from 22,929 m³ as registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN decreased imports by 23% to 4,361 m³ from 5,663 m³ as recorded in the previous month. However, exports of sawntimber to Singapore increased slightly to 6,464 m³ whilst the Philippines decreased its intake by 64% to 3,563 m³ from 9,827 m³ last month.

Moving to the Africa region, exports to Africa decreased by 78% to 491 m³ compared to 2,238 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, demand from South Africa also decreased by 83% to 242 m³ from 1,411 m³ followed by Mauritius with a decrease of 70% to 198 m³ from 654 m³ in the previous month.

Elsewhere, the USA as a major buyer from North America increased its intake by 44% to 1,878 m³ from 1,305 m³ followed by Canada with an increase of 351% to 158 m³ compared to the previous month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, exports to Australia decreased by 22% to 747 m³ from 962 m³ in the previous month followed by New Zealand with a decrease of 15% to 18 m³ respectively. Meanwhile French Polynesia resumed its buying with 39 m³ for the month.

PLYWOOD

The average FOB price of sawntimber increased by 4% to RM1,993 per m³ from RM1,918 per m³ in the previous month. The price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands also increased by 9% to RM3,886 per m³ from RM3,557 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM2,644 per m³, an increase of 4% from RM2,533 per m³ in the previous month.

President Donald Trump has escalated trade tensions by imposing tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China, with tariffs on Mexico and Canada paused for a month. Now, he's targeting Europe, potentially impacting the European timber industry significantly. US tariffs on European timber could disrupt global trade flow, with Canada redirecting lumber exports to Europe and Asia, affecting European domestic sawlog demand, prices, and logging operations. Sweden, a major softwood lumber exporter, would face increased home competition if US tariffs reduce North American exports, impacting sawmills and forest owners, while the Baltic nations could see declining revenues and profit margins. The European timber industry's reliance on North American exports means tariffs would force them to seek alternative markets, leading to oversupply and reduced profitability for sawmills and wood-processing companies in countries like Sweden, Germany, and Finland.

Lower timber prices might benefit European wood-processing industries short-term, but long-term effects could be unfavorable. The European Central Bank's shift from combating inflation to stimulating growth could be complicated by a flood of cheaper imported lumber, weakening domestic producers and slowing forestry infrastructure investment. European mills, already adapting to reduced log supplies following restrictions on Russian and Belarusian wood, would face challenges with fresh Canadian imports, potentially leading to closures, job losses, and declining forest management investments, especially in rural Scandinavia and the Baltics. Policymakers may need protective measures or subsidies, risking retaliatory US tariffs and further trade disruptions. The European timber industry's ability to adapt and policy responses from European governments will determine its stability and growth amidst these trade tensions.

Export for plywood in November 2024 recorded a decrease of 14% in volume at 80,865 m³ and 13% decrease in value to RM159.6 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative exports for the period of January - November 2024 showed an increase of 3% in volume to 1,009,342 m³ but a 4% decrease in value totalling at RM2.2 billion over the previous corresponding period. The EU region recorded a decrease in plywood import of 79% from 994 m³ to 209 m³. Poland added up the purchase by 57% to 127 m³ while Malta remained at 43 m³. Meanwhile, Italy has resumed its buying with 38 m³. In other parts of Europe, exports recorded an increase of 3% to 4,012 m³ from 3,893 m³ in the previous month. The plywood purchases by the UK increased by 22% to 3,921 m³ but Turkiye dropped intake by 87% to 90 m³.

Moving to the East Asia market, the volume plummeted by 18% to 44,459 m³ from 54,410 m³ in October. Japan as the largest importer from the region reduced its buying by 20% to 37,338 m³, followed by Taiwan and South Korea with a decrease of 5% sales to 3,698 m³ and South Korea by 14% to 3,159 m³. In the ASEAN region, imports decreased by 33% from 5,459 m³ to 3,646 m³. Plywood export to Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines recorded reductions of 26% to 1,618 m³, 30% to 1,003 m³ and 58% to 578 m³ respectively.

In the South Asia region, plywood purchase declined by 12% from 1,937 m³ to 1,712 m³. India increased its import by 3% to 1,679 m³ while Maldives decreased buying by 83% to 33 m³. Bangladesh didn't make any plywood purchase for the month. The West Asia region also recorded a decrease of 46% to 7,529 m³ from 13,808 m³ in the previous month. Import performance in Yemen, Jordan and Oman all dropped by 47% to 6,460 m³, 9% to 595 m³ and 44% to 300 m³ respectively.

In the Africa region, plywood export recorded a tremendous improvement of 964% from 11 m³ to 117 m³ with purchases from South Africa. The North America region also showed an increase, of 61% from 10,799 m³ to 17,372 m³. The USA as the main buyer increased purchases by 78% to 16,470 m³. However, Mexico and Canada decreased buying by 35% to 779 m³ and 63% to 123 m³ each. Plywood export in the Oceania/Pacific region recorded a decrease of 28% to 1,808 m³ from 2,525 m³. Australia decreased its purchases by 34% to 1,624 m³ while New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

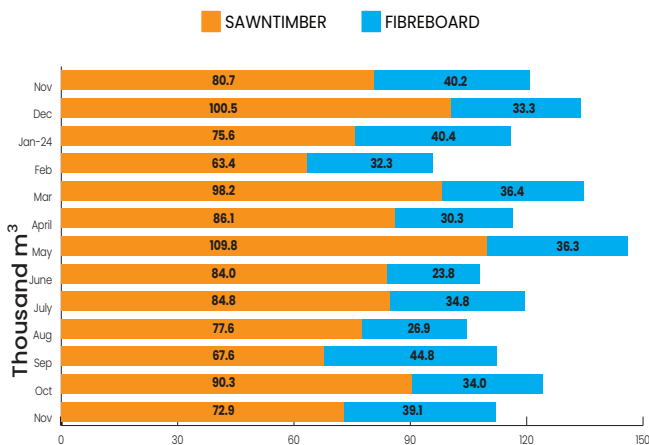
resumed their purchases with 166 m³ and 18 m³ respectively.

The FOB price of plywood for November 2024 was at RM1,974 per m³, an increase of 1% from RM1,948 per m³ from the previous month.

According to Construction Market Insights – APAC and GCC report by Linesight, in Q4 2024 and early 2025, timber prices are likely to continue declining in regions with construction slowdowns, such as Australia, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. In contrast, areas with active construction demand and major projects like Saudi Arabia, India and the UAE, may see price increases. In Malaysia, prices are expected to fall moderately due to weak global demand.

Malaysia: Export of Sawntimber and MDF

Nov 2023 – Nov 2024



veneer

Export of veneer for November 2024 increased slightly in volume by 0.2% to 5,148 m³ but decreased in value by 17% worth RM7.4 million as compared to the previous month. The cumulative export for January – November 2024 showed an increase in both volume and value by 43% to 51,719 m³ and 34% to RM99.7 million over the previous corresponding period.

ASEAN recorded a decrease in veneer import by 99% from 221 m³ to 3 m³ with the purchases being from Singapore. In East Asia, export increased by 13% from 4,242 m³ to 4,785 m³. China and Taiwan increased their veneer imports by 37% to 3,446 m³ and 13% to 910 m³ each. However, Japan reduced its import by 33% to 286 m³.

Similarly, the South Asia region recorded an increase in import of 65% to 287 m³ from 174 m³ in the previous month. Veneer purchases by India and Bangladesh increased by 19% to 167 m³ and 264% to 120 m³ respectively.

Moving to North America, veneer import recorded a decrease of 81% to 72 m³ from 375 m³ with purchases from the USA. Meanwhile in the Oceania/Pacific and Africa regions, no veneer sales were made for the month.

The average FOB price for veneer decreased by 17% from RM1,735 per m³ to RM1,442 per m³ as compared to previous month.

Bangladesh's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased to 62.2 in November, a 6.5% point climb from October indicating accelerated economic expansion driven by agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors. The construction sector, which had marginally expanded in October, faced a downturn. Input costs and order backlogs contracted, though new business, activity and employment showed slight improvements

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in November 2024 recorded a 15% increase in volume at 39,054 m³ and 12% in value at RM66.0 million compared to the previous month. In contrast, the cumulative export for the period of January – November 2024 recorded a decrease in volume by 11% to 379,148 m³ and also in value by 8% totalling at RM696.1 million as compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Export to ASEAN decreased by 47% from 5,606 m³ to 2,987 m³ in the previous month. The Philippines, Viet Nam and Indonesia reduced their imports by 20%, 54% and 72% to 1,847 m³, 665 m³ and 392 m³ respectively.

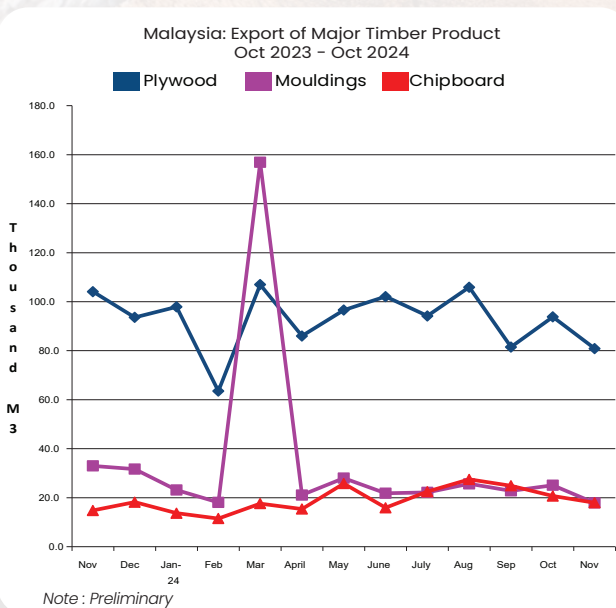
Elsewhere, East Asia purchases of MDF increased by 28% from 10,385 m³ to 13,247 m³ in the previous month. Imports of MDF by Japan, Taiwan and South Korea recorded an improvement of 20%, 173% and 31% to 11,444 m³, 733 m³ and 738 m³ each. Moving to the South Asia market, export also rose by 42% from 3,886 m³ to 5,500 m³. Export performance to India depleted by 1% to 2,724 m³ while Pakistan and Sri Lanka added up their volumes by 165% to 2,358 m³ and 80% to 386 m³ respectively.

Export to the West Asia region recorded an increase of 46% from 9,259 m³ to 13,524 m³ compared to the previous month. The UAE increased buying by 2% to 8,092 m³ but Oman reduced its import by 10% to 976 m³. Meanwhile, Yemen resumed its purchase with 4,199 m³. In Central America, Guatemala resumed its purchase with 65 m³. On the other hand, countries in Europe and South America didn't make any purchase for Malaysian MDF for the month.

Export to the Oceania/Pacific region recorded a decrease of 20% to 1,588 m³ from 1,980 m³ with purchases being from Australia. MDF import by North America showed a decrease of 24% from 2,733 m³ to 2,091 m³ compared to the previous month. MDF purchase by the USA, Mexico and Canada decreased by 7% to 1,455 m³, 34% to 490 m³ and 66% to 146 m³ each. In the Africa region, MDF purchase also recorded a decrease of 44% to 53 m³ with purchases being from South Africa.

The average FOB price of MDF decreased by 2% to RM1,689 per m³ from RM1,727 per m³ in the previous month.

Based on a BusinessWire report, construction industry in West Asia is experiencing transformative growth, driven by a combination of government initiatives, urbanisation and significant investments in infrastructure. Saudi Arabia plans to invest over USD175 billion annually in industrial and mega projects between 2025 and 2028. Key initiatives include the development of Neom and Red Sea resorts, which are expected to significantly enhance the region's infrastructure and housing markets. The UAE continues to experience a construction boom in the residential segment, with project such as Danube Properties' Dh 900 million housing development, which includes 750 smart and sustainable homes. The Abu Dhabi Housing Authority has also announced national housing projects worth USD1.9 billion.



MOULDINGS

In November 2024, the export of mouldings decreased by 29% in volume, reaching 17,886 m³, and by 35% in value, amounting to RM57.6 million compared to October 2024. For the cumulative period from January to November 2024, exports of mouldings rose by 44% in volume to 382,900 m³ and by 10% in value to RM856.6 million compared to the same period in 2023.

Exports to ASEAN countries decreased by 5% to 898 m³ in November, down from 946 m³ in October 2024. Exports to Singapore declined by 6.7% to 748 m³, while exports to Viet Nam also decreased by 2.4% to 141 m³. In the East Asia region, exports increased by 12% to 1,699 m³ in November. Exports to Japan and South Korea rose by 26% to 843 m³ and by 7% to 721 m³, respectively. However, exports to China declined by 18% to 83 m³. Thailand resumed its intake with 9 m³ in November 2024.

In the South Asia region, export volume showed a negative trend, decreasing by 78% to 189 m³ in November compared to the previous month. This drop was driven by an unexpected decrease in demand from India and the Maldives, which fell by 77% to 170 m³ and by 71% to 19 m³, respectively, in November compared to October 2024. A similar decline was observed in the West Asia region, where demand from the UAE dropped significantly by 54% to 30 m³.

Exports to the EU bloc also decreased by 53%, reaching 3,169 m³ in November compared to 6,767 m³ in October 2024. The Netherlands, France,

and Greece recorded decreases of 72% to 1,277 m³, 38% to 458 m³, and 35% to 187 m³, respectively. Exports to the United Kingdom also declined by 7% to 299 m³.

In the Oceania/Pacific region, total export fell by 29%, reaching 1,131 m³ in November compared to 1,602 m³ in October 2024. Exports to Australia and Guam also decreased by 28% to 1,112 m³ and by 4% to 19 m³ respectively.

In North America, total demand decreased by 19% to 10,121 m³ in November. Despite being the largest importer of mouldings from the region, exports to the USA decreased to 9,831 m³ compared to 12,452 m³ in October 2024. In contrast, exports to Canada surged drastically to 290 m³ compared to 17 m³ in October 2024.

In the Africa region, total export also decreased by 35% compared to 351 m³ in October 2024. The leading factor was a decline in exports to Mauritius, which fell by 34% to 230 m³ from 347 m³ in the previous month. A similar decline was seen in South Africa, where exports dropped by 86% to 28 m³.

The average FOB unit value for mouldings decreased by 9% to RM3,220 m³ compared to RM3,528 m³ in October 2024.

According to the Construction Dive Report, in the lead-up to the November 2024 election, uncertainty in the U.S. economy led to a slowdown in construction activity, which directly impacted the demand for timber and timber products. Many private-sector construction projects were delayed as developers and investors hesitated to commit to new projects amid concerns over potential economic and regulatory changes post-election. This decline in construction activity particularly affected the residential and commercial building sectors, both of which are key drivers of timber demand. Additionally, architectural firms, often seen as leading indicators of future construction, reported reduced project planning, signaling a prolonged downturn in timber consumption.

The Federal Reserve's Beige Book highlighted commercial builders, especially in regions like Cleveland and New York, experiencing project delays due to the uncertain political and economic climate. With fewer projects breaking ground, the need for raw materials such as lumber, plywood, and engineered wood products declined. Suppliers and sawmills faced reduced orders, leading to lower production levels and price instability in the timber market. Despite expectations of economic recovery due to easing

inflation and interest rates, the uncertainty surrounding the election stalled construction growth, prolonging weak demand for timber and related materials.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Exports of BJC for November 2024 decreased by 13% in volume to 11.4 million kg and in terms of value, decreased by 10% worth RM105.3 million compared to the last month, October 2024. However, when compared year-on-year, exports of BJC for the cumulative period of January–November 2024 increased by 7% in volume and 2% in value to 127.1 million kg worth RM1.2 billion.

Demand from the ASEAN region decreased by 17% to RM123.1 million with Singapore as the highest buyer reducing its intake to RM87.7 million, a decrease of 24% from RM115.8 million in the previous corresponding period. However, exports to Viet Nam and Thailand grew by 24% to RM12.3 million and 61% to RM14.1 million, respectively.

Meanwhile, exports to East Asia countries dropped by 3% to RM 82.4 million over RM84.9 million in the corresponding period in 2023. Japan was recorded as the highest buyer with an increase of 4% to RM58.7 million. China imports decreased slightly by 0.8% to RM11.5 million from RM11.6 million in the previous corresponding period. Taiwan also decreased its intake by 16% to RM7.5 million from 8.8 million in the corresponding period in 2023.

Intake from South Asia countries increased by 6% to RM35.0 million with India maintaining as the largest buyer, expanded its buying by 9% to RM22.0 million. Similarly, Sri Lanka increased their intake by 160% to RM4.6 million whilst Maldives moderately decreased its demand by 26% to RM5.2 million for the cumulative period of January – November 2024. Moving on to West Asia countries, the UAE recorded a decrease of 39% to RM2.3 million from RM3.8 million over the same cumulative period in 2023. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia expand its intake by 4,468% to RM9.9 million whilst Kuwait maintained its buying with RM610,333.

Moving on to the EU bloc, exports of BJC decreased by 13% worth RM231.5 million from RM265.2 million in the same corresponding period in 2023. Exports to the Netherlands grew by 50% to RM77.0 million from RM51.5 million in the same period of January–November 2023. Exports to

Belgium reduced by 9% worth RM75.3 million followed by France with a decrease of 34% worth RM18.2 million. Meanwhile, exports to the UK increased by 10% to RM125.8 million from RM114.1 million. Similarly, exports to Norway increased by 587% worth RM 12.0 million. However, Türkiye decreased buying by 42.3% to RM805,382 from RM 1.4 million in the same corresponding period.

As the largest buyer of BJC for the period of January – November 2024, demand from North America was worth RM342.7 million, an increase of 16% from RM296.6 million in the same period in 2023. Exports to the USA increased by 21% to RM336.3 million from RM278.3 million in the same period in 2023. Export to Canada expanded by 90% to RM6.1 million from RM3.2 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Meanwhile, Mexico reduced its intake by 99% to RM189,983 from RM15.1 million in the corresponding period in 2023 followed by Uruguay also with a decrease of 32% to RM874,435 from RM1.3 million over the same period in 2023.

Shifting to the Oceania/Pacific region, export expanded moderately by 3% to RM229.8 million with Australia being the largest buyer and recording an increase of 5% to RM207.8 million. Export to New Zealand was down by 9% to RM17.6 million whilst in Western Samoa, export increased by 30% worth RM1.4 million. Elsewhere, exports to the Africa region dropped by 6% to RM10.6 million. Intake from both South Africa and Mauritius increased by 5% to RM5.3 million and by 70% to RM2.2 million respectively. Meanwhile, Seychelles continue to decrease its intake by 31% to RM1.7 million for the cumulative period January – November 2024.

According to an IBISWorld report, the UK's Carpentry & Joinery Product Manufacturing industry has demonstrated significant growth over recent years. Between 2019 and 2024, the market size expanded at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.1%, reaching £7.5 billion in revenue for the 2024-25 period. This growth is attributed to increased demand for home improvement products, such as greenhouses and garden sheds, as more individuals spent time at home during and after the pandemic. The number of businesses in the industry also rose, with 8,525 companies operating in 2024, reflecting a CAGR of 3.1% over the same period. Employment within the sector has seen a positive trend, with 64,204 individuals employed in 2024, up from 60,683 in 2023. This increase corresponds to a 3.7% average annual growth rate in employment between 2019 and 2024. The industry's competitive landscape is

characterized by a high level of competition, with major players including Howarth Timber Group Ltd, James Walker (Leith) Ltd, and JELD-WEN UK Ltd. Despite the industry's expansion, challenges such as a shortage of skilled labor persist, potentially impacting future growth and the ability to meet rising demand.

FURNITURE

Export of wooden furniture for the month of November 2024 declined by 5% to RM858.9 million from RM904.7 million in October 2024. However, when compared year-on-year, export of wooden furniture has increased by 9% to RM8.9 billion from RM8.2 billion in its corresponding period in 2023.

For the period of January – November 2024, export of wooden furniture to ASEAN increased by 0.2% worth RM1.1 billion where the largest buyer, Singapore dropped its buying by 3% to RM667.0 million, followed by Indonesia with import reduced by 3% to RM100.8 million. However, export to the Philippines grew by 18% to RM233.8 million for the cumulative period of January – November 2024.

Moving to the East Asia region, export dropped by 11% to RM519.3 million from RM581.7 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Japan remained the highest buyer with export valued at RM399.9 million despite a decline of 9%. Similarly, export to Taiwan decreased by 3% to RM45.3 million while intake from China decreased by 33% to RM31.4 million over its corresponding period in 2023.

Exports to West Asia expanded by 0.1% to RM464.5 million from RM464.2 million in the corresponding period in 2023. The UAE remained the largest buyer in the region albeit a decline of 12% to RM209.5 million. Similarly, export to Saudi Arabia dropped by 3% to RM157.7 million while Kuwait improved its buying by 42% valued at RM24.2 million for the mentioned period.

Moving to the South Asia region, export of wooden furniture to the region improved by 29% to RM153.9 million for the period of January – November 2024. Amongst South Asia countries, India recorded the highest intake with export valued at RM139.3 million with an increase in intake of 30%. Likewise, export to Maldives grew by 15% to RM10.8 million and Sri Lanka increased its buying by 188% worth RM1.8 million.

Export to the Central Asia region declined by 1% to RM3.7 million with export to Kazakhstan improved by 28% to RM3.1 million. Armenia reduced

its demand by 68% to RM0.2 million and Tajikistan also dropped its intake to 27% to RM0.3 million for the cumulative period of January–November 2024.

Exports to the European Union recorded an expansion of 11% to RM344.3 million from RM311.4 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Export to Germany increased by 17% worth RM41.4 million, followed by Spain with imports increased by 35% to RM39.7 million and France, increased by 10% worth RM35.9 million. Amongst other countries in Europe, the United Kingdom as the largest buyer recorded an increase of 14% to RM429.6 million from RM377.9 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Similarly, exports to Türkiye and Switzerland increased by 61% to RM14.3 million and by 12% to RM10.9 million respectively.

Exports to Oceania/Pacific improved by 17% to RM543.8 million from RM466.6 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Australia remained as the top buyer in the archipelago region with export valued at RM476.3 million with an improvement of 15%. Similarly, both exports to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea expanded by 3% to RM34.5 million and by 54% to RM12.2 million respectively.

Moving to the Central America region, export of wooden furniture increased by 27% to RM48.4 million from RM38.1 million in the same period in 2023. Both Panama and El Salvador recorded increases of 37% to RM14.6 million and 17% to RM9.5 million respectively. Similarly, export to Guatemala grew by 13% to RM8.8 million from RM7.8 million in January–November, 2023.

Meanwhile, exports to the North America region advanced by 13% to RM5.0 billion from RM4.4 billion based on year-on-year. As Malaysia's largest wooden furniture buyer, demand from the USA improved by 12% to RM4.5 billion from RM4.0 billion over its corresponding period in 2023. Similarly, export to Canada multiplied by 28% to RM385.9 million while Puerto Rico reduced its demand by 8% to RM50.4 million.

Similarly, export of wooden furniture to the South America region recorded an increase of 20% worth RM95.1 million from RM79.0 million over its corresponding period, January – November 2023. Export to Chile improved by 34% to RM51.6 million from RM38.5 million, followed by Peru with exports increased by 24% to RM18.7 million. However, export to Uruguay dropped by 23% to RM5.8 million for the cumulative period in 2024.

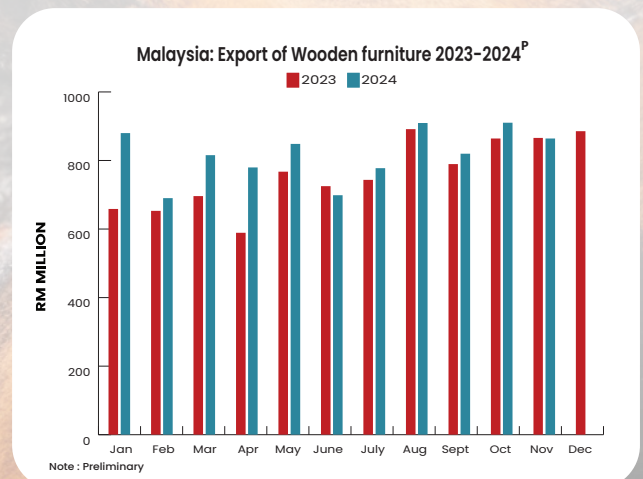
Moving to the Africa region, export to the region improved by 5% to RM148.1 million with South

Africa garnering the largest market share with RM45.5 million. Intake from South Africa recorded an increase of 25% from RM36.4 million over its corresponding period in 2023. This was followed by Mauritius, with recorded sales of RM15.6 million, exports increased by 20% from the previous corresponding period. Likewise, export to Reunion Islands also increased by 5% to RM13.0 million from RM12.3 million year-on-year.

Rattan furniture shipments for November 2024 recorded an increase of 11% valued at RM7.4 million. However, when based on year-on-year, export of rattan furniture for the cumulative period of January – November 2024 declined by 13% to RM62.0 million from RM71.0 million in the same period in 2023.

Exports to ASEAN member countries were recorded at RM6.9 million, an increase of 8% for the mentioned period, January – November 2024 from RM6.4 million in the same period in 2023. The highest buyer, the Philippines recorded sales of RM4.3 million at an increase by 11%. Similarly, export to Singapore grew by 11% to RM1.9 million while export to Thailand decreased by 2% to RM0.6 million.

Meanwhile, export to the East Asia region recorded a decline of 71% worth RM1.6 million with Japan reducing its intake by 30% to RM0.9 million. Similarly, export to China also dropped by 92% at RM0.3 million. However, intake from South Korea grew by 20% to RM0.2 million for the stated period. Moving on to South Asia countries, India was recorded as the highest buyer of rattan furniture worth RM0.8 million despite a reduction in its buying by 74%. Meanwhile, Tajikistan resumed its intake with 122,721 m3 for the cumulative period.



Export to the West Asia region rose by 20% to RM4.8 million with the largest buying nation of rattan furniture in the region, the UAE increasing its intake by 43% to RM2.6 million while intake from Saudi Arabia dropped by 10% to RM1.3 million. Meanwhile, Iran reduced its intake to RM0.3 million, a decline of 30% from the corresponding period in 2023.

Moving to European Union bloc, import increased by 8% to RM9.9 million with France being the largest buyer amongst EU countries. France increased its intake by 3% to RM2.4 million, followed by the Netherlands with rattan furniture intake increased significantly to RM1.5 million. Similarly, export to Spain grew by 82% worth RM1.4 million from the corresponding period in 2023. Moving on to other European countries, demand from the group decreased by 30% to RM6.8 million with the UK being the largest buyer in the region. The UK dropped its buying by 23% to RM5.7 million, while Russia reduced its buying by 69% to RM0.7 million. Meanwhile, intake from Georgia improved significantly to RM0.3 million for the period of January – November 2024.

Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific archipelago region dropped by 44% to RM3.6 million from RM6.4 million over the same period in 2023. Australia recorded a decline in intake by 38% to RM3.0 million, while both New Zealand and Fiji also cut out their buying by 82% to RM0.2 million and by 49% to RM0.1 million respectively.

Exports to the North America region expanded by 2% to RM25.6 million from RM25.1 million over the same period in 2023. Despite being the largest buyer for rattan furniture in the continent, buying from the USA recorded a drop in intake by 3% to RM21.4 million. However, export to Canada increased by 52% to RM1.7 million while intake from the Dominican Republic dropped by 5% to RM1.5 million. Meanwhile, Chile and Uruguay increased their intake by 82% to RM0.6 million and by 18% to RM0.2 million respectively. Panama increased its intake by 149% worth RM18,756 while Honduras resumed its intake with RM16,382 for the period of January – November 2024.

Moving to the Africa region, South Africa increased its buying by 18% to RM0.2 million, while Ghana resumed its buying with RM0.3 million and export to Algeria improved by 169% worth RM0.2 million.

The Fordaq.com had reported that the European furniture production falls to a new low 2024 was a challenging one for the European furniture sector. According to Eurostat data, the value of furniture production in the EU27 fell 3-4%. This followed an 8% decline from the previous year.

Production in the EU last year was lower than in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Over past two years, Europe has faced increased uncertainty, sluggish economic performance and a marked slowdown in the construction industry. As a result, European consumer demand for furniture has come under considerable strain. Despite falling inflation European furniture consumption has continued to suffer from the erosion of household purchasing power, the propensity for consumers to save and the erosion of real financial wealth. Consumers are also now more inclined to spend the disposable income that they do have on travel and eating out, activities precluded during the pandemic, rather than on furniture products which they invested in heavily during 2021 and 2022 in the wake of the COVID lockdowns.

The costs of producing furniture in Europe also remained high in 2024. High energy prices, costs of capital and rising labour costs could not be passed onto customers, greatly reducing profitability. Export market competitiveness was impaired and market prospects, particularly in the US, China and the Middle East, were cooling and not buoyant enough to support European production. While the overall European trend has been sharply downwards, furniture sector performance has varied between European countries in recent times. Eurostat data shows that while overall EU27 furniture production in 2024 was below the level prevailing in 2019, production in Lithuania, Poland, Spain and Italy remains above the pre-pandemic level. Production in the first three of those countries increased last year. However, production in many other countries is now well below the pre-pandemic level and continued to decline last year, namely in Germany, Sweden, Belgium, France, Romania, Netherlands and Denmark.





INDONESIA

REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON EXPORTS TO THE US

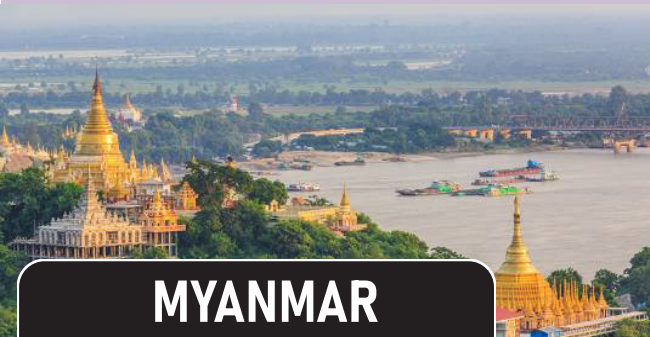
The Indonesian Furniture and Crafts Industry Association (HIMKI) is preparing a strategy to address any impact of additional US import tariffs being proposed by the incoming US administration as these will impact Indonesian furniture and craft exports.

Abdul Sobur, Chairman of the HIMKI, noted that the planned increase in tariffs would undermine the competitiveness of Indonesian furniture products in the US market. The HIMKI is focused on diversifying its export markets targeting India, China and countries in the Middle East.

To address the effects of a rise in US import tariffs HIMKI has been actively communicating with the Indonesian government and proposed measures including negotiating a trade agreement with the US for preferential tariffs.

Other options include offering incentives to exporters through reduced import taxes on raw materials and providing support for upgrading production technology.

www.msn.com/id, 3 December 2024



MYANMAR

PRIVATE FOREST PLANTATIONS AND WOOD-BASED INDUSTRIES WORKSHOP

A workshop on the development of private forest plantations and wood-based industries took place on 2 December 2024 at Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw. Attendees

included representatives from government, wood-based associations and private entrepreneurs from the forest plantation, rattan, bamboo, furniture and sawmill sectors.

Officials reported that Myanmar's forest cover was estimated at 42.19% in 2020 and 42.15% in 2023 and that State-owned and private forest plantations are being established to meet the raw material needs of wood-based industries. Entrepreneurs were urged to explore new markets, study regional export/import conditions and work toward expanding the sector.

It was noted that the private sector's foreign income from the wood-based industry exceeded USD29.4 million in the fiscal year 2023-2024. The potential for increased production and export of finished wood products along with bamboo and rattan products using advanced technology was also emphasised as a means to boost employment and national economic development.

The workshop featured discussions on establishing and managing private forest plantations, production and sales processes and the development of wood, bamboo and rattan products. Participants also addressed issues related to exporting finished non-timber forest products.

In addition, group discussions focused on sustainable raw material supply, industry growth and boosting exports. A similar meeting on the development of Myanmar's timber industry was held in December 2022 but tangible progress remained elusive due to restricted market access. Myanmar had entered into FLEGT VPA negotiations in 2013 to ensure timber legality.

However, these negotiations stalled in 2019. Since 2013 the Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) has been developing the Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS), further strengthened by PEFC and ITTO-supported projects. Despite these efforts major international markets have questioned Myanmar's timber legality citing concerns linked to the country's low Corruption Perceptions Index and weak law enforcement along supply chains. Compounding these challenges, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE), the sole legal entity for delivering round and squared logs continues to face sanctions.

In Myanmar, timber processed and

exported must originate from MTE sources to be considered legal, leaving the sector heavily reliant on a sanctioned institution. The current government has maintained a logging ban while promoting the use of plantation-sourced logs. The MFCC is working toward the certification of Myanmar's first plantation forest under the Myanmar Forest Certification Scheme aiming to ensure both legal and sustainable timber production.

www.myanmaritv.com, 3 December 2024



VIET NAM

VIET NAM'S WOOD EXPORTS POISED TO EARN USD16 BILLION IN 2024

Viet Nam's wood industry is set to achieve impressive export earnings of USD16 billion in 2024, showcasing strong recovery and growth. With a year-to-date growth rate of nearly 21%, the sector has already earned USD13.18 billion in the first ten months of the year. This surge reflects the industry's resilience and ability to adapt to market fluctuations through technological advancements, sustainable practices, and an expanding global footprint.

The United States remains Viet Nam's largest consumer of wood and wood products, accounting for over 50% of the market share. China and Japan follow as the next largest importers. Notably, exports to the U.S. and China grew by double digits compared to the same period last year, while exports to Japan saw a modest increase. Among Viet Nam's 15 major export markets, Spain recorded the highest growth, with a remarkable increase of over 63%. Key products driving this growth include wood chips (up nearly 38%) and wood products (up over 20%).

Despite challenges such as the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Viet Nam's wood enterprises have capitalized on market recovery. Companies like Hai Duong MDF

Construction and Production Limited and Ke Go Limited Liability Company report strong growth in orders, with some securing contracts well into the first quarter of 2025. Plywood, pellets, and wood chips have seen growth rates of 25–30%, with major markets including the U.S., Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and China.

Viet Nam's wood industry is also focusing on sustainable forest management and circular production to meet international standards and reduce risks from regulatory scrutiny. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has implemented initiatives to certify timber from legal sources and promote sustainable forest management. Efforts include issuing codes for raw material forest-growing areas and supporting collaboration between forest producers and processors. These measures aim to ensure compliance with international regulations such as the EU's Anti-Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

As global demand for wood products continues to recover, Viet Nam's wood processing sector is poised to expand its international presence. Trade fairs, market promotions, and investments in green technology and digital transformation are set to solidify Vietnam's position as a leading player in the global wood industry. However, challenges remain, including potential U.S. anti-dumping investigations and the need for enhanced trade promotion strategies for domestic enterprises.

www.fordaq.com, 3 December 2024



CHINA

PROSPECTS AND MARKET DEMAND FOR RUBBERWOOD

The "2024 Rubberwood Global Industry Chain Innovation and Development Matchmaking Conference" was held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the "2024 Annual Meeting of the National Innovation Alliance of Rubberwood and Products under the

National Forestry and Grassland Administration" was held at the same time.

China is one of the world's largest rubberwood consumers but domestic rubberwood production cannot meet market demand so a large volume is imported. Thailand is one of the main sources of China's rubberwood imports and the value of trade in rubberwood and products between China and Thailand has stabilised at about USD2 billion over the past five years. China also imports some rubberwood from Indonesia and Malaysia.

China's rubberwood imports have steadily increased in recent years and it has become the largest single category of imported sawn hardwood accounting for nearly 50%. From January to September 2024 China imported 3.83 million cubic metres of sawn rubberwood, an increase of 16% over the same period of 2023. Imports of rubberwood veneer was about 128,000 tonnes, a year on year increase of 85%.

The following innovations have been developed in the rubberwood industry in China. These new materials, new technologies and new equipment have greatly improved the utilisation rate and added value of rubberwood.

Innovations in processing technology such as CNC engraving and laser cutting are widely used in the production of rubberwood products leading to improved production efficiency and offering opportunities for unique designs. In addition, the surface of rubberwood veneer has been enhanced through the use of coatings and UV isobaric paste processes.

Today rubberwood can be made more durable with technology that is more environmentally friendly and safer. Heat treatment technology, resin impregnation technology, compaction technology and modification technology of rubberwood have improved product performance and expand possible applications.

In order to develop the rubberwood industry, China established the Rubber Wood and Products Innovation Alliance in 2023. The alliance currently has more than 100 enterprise members and released the "Rubberwood Industry Chain Development Report 2024". Experts predict that consumption and demand of China's rubberwood will continue to grow.

www.itto.int, 10 December 2024



JAPAN

PLYWOOD SHIPMENT

Shipment of domestic plywood in October and November, 2024 increased at plywood manufacturers, trading companies and wholesalers. Shipment of domestic softwood structural plywood in October, 2024 was 204,000 cubic metres, 10.3 % more than last month. This is the highest shipment in this year.

The plywood price kept declining until the middle of November, 2024 and 12 mm 3 x 6 softwood structural plywood was around 970 yen, delivered per sheet in the metropolitan areas. However, major plywood manufacturers in Eastern Japan announced that they would stop lowering the plywood price in December, 2024. The reasons are that the shipment of plywood increased in autumn, the inventory of plywood at plywood manufacturers decreased, and it will take time to deliver.

The price of 12 mm painted plywood for concrete form / normal plywood in South Asia is leveled off. However, suppliers in Malaysia and Indonesia expect to raise the price strongly because their local currencies are stronger than the US dollar. The exchange rate of yen was 140 yen against the US dollar during August to September, 2024 and the yen appreciated to 150 yen in October and November, 2024. Therefore, the futures price is higher than the spot price in Japan. As a result, Japanese consumers hesitate to purchase imported plywood and South Asian suppliers did not raise the price this time.

12 mm 3 x 6 painted plywood for concrete formboard in South Asia is USD580 – 600, C&F per cubic metre. Form plywood is USD490 – 510, C&F per cubic metre. Structural plywood is USD500 – 520, C&F per cubic metre. 2.4 mm 3 x 6 plywood is around USD970. 7 mm 3 x 6 plywood is around USD880, C&F per cubic metre. 5.2 mm 3 x 6 plywood is around USD850, C&F per cubic metre. In Japan, 12 mm 3 x 6 painted plywood for concrete form is around

1,850 yen, delivered per sheet. Form plywood is 1,550 yen, delivered per sheet. Structural plywood is 1,550 yen, delivered per sheet. 2.5 mm plywood is 750 yen, delivered per cubic metre. 4 mm plywood is 930 yen, delivered per cubic metre. 5.5 mm plywood is 1,100 yen, delivered per cubic metre.

www.itto.int, 15 December 2024



INDIA

PINE LOGS ACCEPTED FOR PLYWOOD CORE VENEER PRODUCTION

The switch to pine log peeling for the production of plywood core veneer in India has emerged as a survivor for this sector. Reports say that after successful trials in Kandla based plywood mills pine logs are now utilised in North India plywood mills.

The Indian plywood industry has been struggling due to the high prices of plantation poplar and eucalyptus where prices reached an all-time high in 2024. The impact of the surge in prices resulted in some mills in North India either reducing production or even closing mills.

It is understood that MDF manufacturing units are also considering the use of the lower priced pine as a raw material option.

In the past plywood sector observers suggested that few mills would utilise pine logs for plywood manufacturing but nowadays pine is being used but unfortunately some people are resisting the change away from the convention of using eucalyptus and poplar but recently pine logs are being sold in greater volumes.

It has been observed that pine logs have started to be used in mills in the Delhi-NCR area and in states of Yamuna Nagar, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Manufacturers welcome the change to pine as this helps check the rising production costs which have been driven up by the high

prices of poplar logs which, in part, reflects declining availability. Manufacturers are becoming more confident as the issue of log supplies has eased and pine wood for core veneer is gaining acceptance. There is also an advantage in that plywood with a pine core is lighter weight and the yield of veneers is higher with pine logs.

www.fordaq.com, 2 December 2024



EUROPEAN UNION

TROPICAL WOOD IMPORT QUANTITY HEADING FOR AN HISTORIC LOW

Total EU27 imports of tropical wood and wood furniture of 358,100 tonnes in the third quarter of this year were down 4% compared to the previous quarter and 10% less than in the same quarter last year.

The latest figures mean that imports in the last four quarters, averaging around 350,000 tonnes, have been well below the long-term average of closer to 450,000 tonnes. In the first nine months of 2024, the EU27 imported 1,066,400 tonnes of tropical wood and wood furniture, 14% less than the same period in 2023. In quantity terms, EU imports of tropical wood and wood furniture products this year look set to be at the lowest annual level ever recorded since the EU was first formed (as the EEC) in 1957.

The trade figures look healthier when considered in value terms. EU27 import value of tropical wood and wood furniture in the third quarter this year was USD763 million, 5% less than the previous quarter and just 0.7% down on the same quarter last year.

In value terms, EU27 tropical wood product imports are at the same low, but broadly stable, level prevailing between 2013 and 2019. In the first nine months of 2024, the EU27 imported tropical wood and wood furniture with total value of USD2284 million, 9% less than the same period in 2023.

www.itto.int, 16 December 2024



FINLAND

STRONG ROUNDWOOD TRADE

Roundwood trade in Finland continued to be strong in November. The volume was 18% higher than a year ago and 16% higher than the average for the previous five years, the Finnish Natural Forest Institute (Luke) reported.

The cumulative volume of trade in January–November was 16% higher than last year. The average volumes of the previous five years were exceeded by 20%, the trade in logs by 22% and in pulpwood by 14%.

In standing sales, softwood log prices in Finland rose by 1% from October, with the average price of spruce logs exceeding EUR 82 and pine logs EUR 79 per cubic metre. Birch logs rose by 1% to over EUR 66. Real log prices have remained stable throughout the autumn, close to the peak prices of June.

Standing sales prices for pulpwood remained unchanged. The average price paid for spruce pulpwood was close to EUR 34, for birch and pine around EUR 32. Prices were 22–24% higher than in the whole of last year.

In delivery sales of pulpwood, average prices of pine and birch rose by a few per cent, while spruce prices remained unchanged. Prices for all species of pulpwood ended at an exceptionally high level of around EUR 53. The price of pine pulpwood was 17% above the average price level for the whole of last year, while the prices of spruce and birch rose by 13%.

Real pulpwood delivery prices in November were higher than ever before in the monthly statistics started in 1995. Annual prices were at this level or higher in the early 1990s.

www.fordaq.com, 20 December 2024



BRAZIL

WOOD PRODUCT EXPORTS RISE 20% IN OCTOBER 2024

In October 2024 the Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) increased 20% in value compared to October 2023, from USD219.9 million to USD 263.6 million.

Pine sawnwood exports increased 75% in value between October 2023 (USD8.6 million) and October 2024 (USD50.1 million). In volume, exports increased 62% from 127,900 cu.m (October 2023) to 206,500 cubic metres (October 2024).

Tropical sawnwood exports increased 5% in volume, from 20,600 cubic metres in October 2023 to 21,700 cubic metres in October 2024. However the value decreased 4% from USD9.1 million to USD8.7 million, over the same period.

Pine plywood exports increased 30% in value in October 2023 (USD43.8 million) compared to October 2024 (USD57.1 million). In volume, exports increased 20% over the same period, from 140,600 cubic metres (October 2023) to 169,100 cubic metres (October 2024).

As for tropical plywood, exports decreased 8% in value and increased 24% in volume, from USD1.3 million and 1,700 cubic metres in October 2023 to USD 1.2 million and 2,100 cubic metres in October 2024.

As for wooden furniture, the exported value increased from USD 46.2 million in October 2023 to USD48.2 million in October 2024, an increase of 4% in the total exports of the product during the period.

www.fordaq.com, 3 December 2024



CANADA

WOOD STRENGTHENS COOPERATION WITH CHINA

Given the growing potential for Canadian Wood products to play a significant role in China's construction market Canada Wood has a strategic focus promoting mass timber and hybrid construction in China with the signing of three pivotal memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with key stakeholders recently.

These agreements are with Treezo Group, East China Architectural Design & Research Institute (ECADI) and the National Center for Technology Innovation-Green Building (NCTI-GB).

The National Center for Technology Innovation-Green Building (NCTI-GB), endorsed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is a national platform focused on decarbonising construction and promoting green building technologies.

A MOU between Canada Wood and the NCTI-GB underscores a commitment to joint efforts in resource sharing, technical exchange, and the development of standards and demonstration projects. This collaboration is poised to drive advancements in mass timber construction, with a shared goal of establishing wood as a key component in China's green building agenda.

According to MoU the two entities will carry out cooperation in the exploration of hidden carbon in buildings, the promotion of modern wood structure technology, the promotion of demonstration projects and information support, jointly promote the development of bamboo and wood construction industry and make positive contributions to global green and low-carbon development.

www.fordaq.com, 16 December 2024



PERU

PLYWOOD SHIPMENTS INCREASE

Between January and September 2024 plywood exports earned US\$2.76 million, a year-on-year increase of 38% according to the Services and Extractive Industries Management of the Exporters Association (ADEX).

The main destinations for veneer and plywood were Mexico, with a share of 84%, but exports to Mexico dropped 34% year on year. The second destination was Ecuador with a share of 12% and the Dominican Republic ranked third in the first nine months with a share of 2% but exports were down over 70% year on year.

www.ito.int, 13 December 2024



FACES A COMPLEX SET OF CHALLENGES

Timber sector faces a complex set of challenges as the year-end approaches. Tighter regulations in Cameroon, infrastructural bottlenecks at key ports, persistent rains and subdued international demand all shape the current market environment.

Chinese operators confirm that demand for African hardwoods in China remains very low, with only limited contracts for Belli, some redwoods and minimal volumes of Okoume. Ample timber stock levels in China and the current economic climate continue to dampen import volumes from Africa.

Timber prices have shown no significant changes in the Middle East or European markets. European construction activity is slowing due to winter weather and the upcoming holiday

season. With many players contending with administrative hurdles and logistical delays this seasonal lull places additional pressure on producers. December typically marks the beginning of a drier period in Gabon and Congo and a longer dry season in Cameroon. However, short daily rains persist complicating both harvesting and transport. These weather patterns add another layer of unpredictability at a time when the industry could benefit from stable conditions to offset subdued market demand and stricter regulatory environments.

Producers are of the opinion that the key to long-term resilience lies in strategic market diversification, compliance with stringent legal frameworks and readiness to capitalise on infrastructure improvements once conditions improve.

www.itto.int, 13 December 2024

ture: Consumer preferences for personal solutions are increasing the demand for versatile woodworking machines.

- Technological advances: Automation, digital control systems and integrated AI-based solutions increase productivity and reduce operating costs.
- Sustainable manufacturing practices: As environmental regulations become more stringent, the demand for energy-efficient and waste-minimizing machines is growing.
- The report also notes that advanced wood processing technologies are driving an increased demand for consulting and educational services.

www.fordaq.com, 3 December 2024



THE GLOBAL MARKET FOR WOODWORKING MACHINES WILL REACH USD 7.5 BILLION

According to research firm Transparency Market Research, the global woodworking machinery market is expected to reach USD7.5 billion in sales by 2031. The compound annual growth rate is expected to remain stable over the forecast period, as more and more businesses adopt automated solutions to reduce labor dependence, increase productivity, and improve accuracy.

According to analysts, the development of the global market for woodworking machines in the coming years will be determined by the following trends:

- Market expansion in Asia Pacific: Rapid industrialization and urbanization are driving significant demand for woodworking machinery here.
- Growing demand for custom-made furni-



LOGS

For November 2024, the average price of logs for the 20 reference species changed by 50%, ranging from 1.4% to 17.3%, or around RM27 to RM866 per tonne. Out of the ten species reported to have changed in price, seven saw a decline, while three experienced a price rise of 1.4%–6.8%.

Red Balau, Red Meranti, and Mixed Light Hardwood were the three species whose prices were reportedly increased. With the stated percent rise, these three species were selling at average prices of RM2,092, RM1,867 and RM1,190 per tonne, respectively. Meanwhile, seven species including Chengal, Keruing, Kempas, Dark Red Meranti, White Meranti, Sepetir, and Jelutong, were reported to have witnessed price decreases. These seven species were available on the market for RM4,134, RM2,142, RM1,336, RM1,634, RM1,667 and RM1,225 per tonne. For the record, in the previous month, all ten species that were reported to have undergone price adjustments were in the market at average prices of RM1,959, RM1,840, RM1,157, RM5,000, RM2,192, RM1,357, RM1,759, RM1,667, RM1,320 and RM1,384 per tonne.

The current low market performance for most timber products, particularly in the export market, is seen to have a significant impact on the current price of timber, with almost all species remaining unchanged and a price decline of more than 85%, with only a small number of species experiencing price increases, which are described as minor except for special species such as Chengal.

SAWNTIMBER

The current average timber price in November 2024 had little impact on the average price of sawntimber products in the three manufacturing classes: General Market Specification (GMS), STRIPS and Scantling. This circumstance was recognised when the pricing information feedback obtained revealed that 85%–90% or 17–18 species, had no price adjustments. Only Chengal, Mix Heavy Hardwood, Kempas, Kapur, Yellow Meranti and Nyatoh species had price variations ranging from 1.0% to 12.5%, or approximately RM18–RM706 per m³, across the three production classes.

Five heavy hardwood species from the GMS production class were available in the market at costs ranging from RM1,227 to RM5,508 per m³. Six medium hardwood species were priced between RM1,299 and RM2,943 per m³, while nine light hardwood species ranged from RM1,278 to RM2,130 per m³. The STRIPS manufacturing class included six heavy hardwood species with market values ranging from RM1,172 to RM4,944 per m³. Prices for medium hardwood species ranged from RM1,201 to RM2,331 per m³, while light hardwood species were priced between RM1,095 and RM1,995 per m³. The average market price of species in the Scantling production class remained essentially stable, with just three species, Kapur, Yellow Meranti and Kempas, showing fluctuations. The six price reference species in the heavy hardwood group were offered from RM1,246 to RM6,356 per m³, with the average price remaining consistent. Meanwhile, market prices for five medium hardwood species

ranged between RM1,766 and RM2,495; only the Kempas and Kapur species had price fluctuations of –4.5% and 1.9%, respectively. The industrial market prices for the remaining nine light hardwood species varied from RM1,165 to RM3,337 per m³, with only the Yellow Meranti species increasing by roughly 6.2% from the previous month.

PLYWOOD

The current average market price of plywood products for the four major sizes in November 2024 remained the same as the previous month. The average price for plywood with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm, and 12mm was RM19.40, RM26.00, RM38.25 and RM48.85 per piece, with the maximum costs reported for all four sizes ranging from RM19.40 to RM49.00 per piece.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF)

MDF panel products were no exception, with the average price maintenance across all four key sizes advertised in November 2024. The typical price of MDF with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm, and 12mm in the present market was RM12.90, RM23.80, RM31.60 and RM37.75 per piece, with the maximum costs ranging from RM12.90 to RM42.00 per size.

TRADE IN MALAYSIA*
- NOVEMBER 2024

In November 2024, the trade volume of 8,908 m³ between Sabah, Sarawak, and Peninsular Malaysia earned roughly RM9.52 million in wood product trade value. Sabah continued to provide the most to regional trade value, accounting for around 87% of the total, with the trading of the four primary wood products, while Sarawak contributed the remaining 23% through the sale of its three timber products.

In the same month, a trade volume of 7,934 m³ produced a total of RM8.33 million from the trade of four major timber products from Sabah to Peninsular Malaysia: logs, sawntimber, plywood, and veneer. Despite a 16% decrease in trade value, plywood products remained the leading contributor, accounting for RM4.02 million with a trade volume of 2,163 m³. This was followed by commerce in veneer products valued at RM2.43 million, logs at RM1.23 million and sawn timber at RM0.75 million.

The overall amount of timber product trade from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia increased by around 22% in trade value and 31% in total volume in November 2024 as compared to the previous month. For the current month, just three timber products were exchanged: sawn timber, plywood and veneer, with no log products transferred. The trading transaction of 973 m³ of timber products produced RM1.19 million in total. Plywood products contributed to the trade value between Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia, accounting for about 85% of the overall trade value, or RM1.01 million.



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

***AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF
IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA
RINGGIT MALAYSIA
NOVEMBER 2024**

SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	4,134	5,508	4,944	6,356	
Balau	3,734	3,055	2,338	4,590	
Red Balau	2,092	2,754	2,119	2,419	
Merbau	2,875	3,754	3,225	3,725	
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,088	1,227	1,172	1,246	
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	2,142	2,943	2,331	2,495	
Kempas	1,336	2,166	2,048	2,225	
Kapur	1,814	1,746	1,289	1,888	
Mengkulang	1,779	1,299	1,201	2,013	
Tualang	1,300	1,907	1,448	1,766	
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,634	2,130	1,942	3,337	
Red Meranti	1,867	1,754	1,995	2,307	
Yellow Meranti	1,667	1,799	1,530	1,801	
White Meranti	1,667	2,036	1,801	1,624	
Mersawa	1,400	2,013	1,295	2,154	
Nyato	1,473	1,783	1,795	1,201	
Sepetir	1,273	1,819	1,660	1,295	
Jelutong	1,225	2,119	1,589	1,819	
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,190	1,278	1,095	1,165	
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD Hevea brasiliensis	LOGS/ton	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	207	1" X 1"	2"X2"	3"X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,230	1,330	1,380	1,450
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	
	28.80	23.80	31.60	37.75	

Note: Log prices ex-matau. Sawn timber, plywood, MDF and Malaysian Rubberwood (Hevea brasiliensis) prices ex-mill

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE

	Oct-24		Nov-24		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	SEP/OCT	SEP/OCT
Sabah						
Logs	10,288	2,974	4,257	1,230	-59	-59
Sawn Timber	264	427	407	750	54	76
Plywood	1,496	3,022	2,163	4,017	45	33
Veneer	1,546	3,520	1,108	2,336	-28	-34
Sarawak						
Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawn Timber	138	274	50	64	-64	-77
Plywood	608	701	880	1,005	45	43
Veneer	0	0	43	120	100	100

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia

Tabulated: Malaysian Timber Industry Board

Spot Rate Rollercoaster: Carriers Bank on GRIs Ahead of Lunar New Year



Asia-Europe carriers saw their early December general rate increases (GRIs) stick this week, with spot rates into both North Europe and Mediterranean ports seeing double-digit increases.

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) had a reading of \$4,775 per 40ft for its Shanghai-Rotterdam route, a \$800 per container hike representing a 19% increase on the week before, while shippers on the Shanghai-Genoa leg found themselves paying another \$1,000 per box after rates jumped 22% week on week, to \$5,496 per 40ft.

Meanwhile, Xeneta's XSI Asia-Europe leg was up 21.5%, to 4,970 per 40ft. "This represents a relatively high level of success for the new GRIs," Vespucci Maritime's Lars Jensen told a JOC Ocean Freight Market Outlook webinar yesterday. "Expect increasing rates for the next month, until Chinese New Year," he added. That holiday begins on 29 January and, only a few days after that, is the 1 February launch of the new alliance networks, which Mr Jensen said would occupy most of carriers' attention.

"In February and March, carriers will be completely focused on the optimal phase-in of their networks and trying to maintain their customer market share while they do so," he said, adding the combination of this and low post-Chinese New Year demand could send spot rates down rapidly once more.

"Post-Chinese New Year I would expect a larger-than-normal seasonal slump in spot rates, and there will be a strong temptation for shippers at that point in their contract negotiations to sign contracts at really low rates. But if a strong peak season follows that, and with the Red Sea crisis quite probably lasting all year, there could well be a repeat of the space constraints we saw this year, and those with very cheap contracts may well find it difficult to acquire space during the peak," he said.

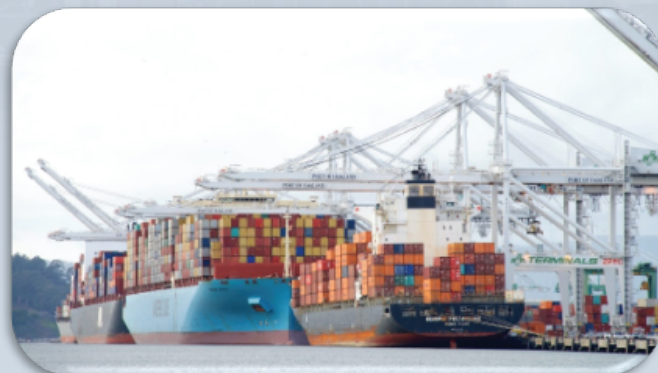
Given that contract negotiating season is well under way on the Asia-Europe trades, the GRIs will come as relief to carriers, because on the Asia-North America trades, the recent declines in

spot rates only steepened this week, with the WCI's Shanghai-Los Angeles leg down 12% week on week, to \$3,719 per 40ft, with Shanghai-New York unchanged, at \$5,160 per 40ft. "I don't expect this weakening to continue," Mr Jensen added, referring to the transpacific trade, "Front-loading has already started and, while for now they are depressed, they will strengthen again."

Transpacific spot rate trends for the remainder of 2024 are thus likely to hinge on the next series of GRIs on the trade, due to be implemented on 15 December – with Hapag-Lloyd, HMM, Cosco and Evergreen applying \$3,000 per 40ft; Zim, Yang Ming and CMA CGM adding \$2,000 and ONE going for \$1,000 per 40ft.

Source: The Loadstar; December 6, 2024

Port Strike Threat and Trump Tariffs Spark Import Surge at U.S. Container Ports



A potential East Coast and Gulf Coast port strike looming in January, coupled with President-elect Trump's planned tariff increases, is seen driving volume growth in U.S. container ports through early 2025, the National Retail Federation said Monday.

"Either a strike or new tariffs would be a blow to the economy and retailers are doing what they can to avoid the impact of either for as long as they can," warns Jonathan Gold, NRF Vice President for Supply Chain and Customs Policy.

The urgency stems from contentious negotiations between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the U.S. Maritime Alliance (USMX), with the current contract extension set to expire January 15th and both sides at an impasse over automation. The deadline, combined with Trump's planned tariff implementation after his January 20 inauguration, has created a perfect storm for U.S. ports.

Industry expert Ben Hackett highlights automation as a key sticking point in port negotiations, noting that "shippers are moving up as much cargo as they can" before potential

disruptions. The impact is already evident in the numbers. October saw 2.25 million TEUs handled at U.S. ports, showing a robust 9.3% year-over-year increase despite a slight monthly decline. December projections indicate even stronger growth at 2.14 million TEU, marking a 14.3% increase from the previous year.

Looking ahead, the National Retail Federation has significantly revised its forecasts upward in recent months. January 2025 is now expected to handle 2.2 million TEU, a 12% year-over-year increase, while March projections show an impressive 12.7% growth. According to Drewry's World Container Index, container spot rates from Shanghai to Los Angeles and New York have declined steadily since their summer peaks, though they remain significantly higher than last year's rates.

Source: gcaptain.com; December 9, 2024

Nuance in Ocean Freight Rates Could Be Another Front-Loading Tea Leaf



Ocean freight rates have jumped up for the December 15-31 bookings, signaling a tightness of space due to demand. Logistics managers tell gCaptain the special bullet rates have quickly disappeared for the time being and the spot rate is heading up.

The combination of an ILA strike, the possibility of additional tariffs by the incoming Trump administration plus an early Lunar New Year have shippers mitigating any slowdown or tariffs by pulling forward freight. "In January, the triple witching hour of possible tariffs, work stoppages, and Chinese New Year is leading to significant increases in ocean pricing to USEC, USWC, and Gulf as of December 15," warned Alan Baer, CEO of OL-USA. "Space is increasingly under pressure."

The fact rates are going up is a tea leaf worth noting. This rate adjustment reflects what the Global Port Tracker is noting: an increase in front-loading. The report forecasts November's import volume at 2.17 million TEUs, a 14.4%

year-over-year increase, and December at 2.14 million TEUs, up 14.3%. Total TEU volumes for 2024 are projected at 25.6 million, marking a 14.8% rise from 2023.

Ben Hackett, founder of Hackett Associates, did warn in the release, "The window to frontload goods on vessels arriving before a potential strike is quickly closing. Then there are issues as President-elect Trump promises to increase tariffs when he takes office." Matt Priest, President and CEO of the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA), tells gCaptain retailers will maintain their ILA strike threat strategy of pulling forward freight as well as shifting product transportation through West Coast ports.

The FDRA is one of many organizations calling on not only the Biden Administration but the Trump Transition team to do whatever they can to avoid an ILA strike. "While these preparations are prudent, I do not believe the President-elect will allow a full-scale strike to occur, given the significant economic consequences it would impose on American businesses and families, particularly as we head into the New Year," said Priest. "We remain hopeful for a long-term resolution that avoids disruption and supports the needs of both workers and the broader economy. We look forward to working with the new administration to lower costs for Americans, especially on essential items like footwear."

Import data from Vizion shows Walmart bookings have been consistently higher each week beginning in the 3rd week in September. Similarly, Columbia Sportswear data shows imports have been consistently higher YOY each week since the election. Aaron Phillip Director of Analytics for Vizion, explained, "Both Walmart and Columbia Sportswear are showing more of these 'front-loading' behaviors."

In ITS Logistics Port Rail Ramp Freight Index, Paul Brashier, Vice President of Global Supply Chain, wrote, "East and Gulf ports are seeing the normal December lull post retail peak and prior to the Lunar New Year. Surprisingly, the US West Coast ports are still experiencing significant import volumes, which may be a result of some inventory being pulled forward to avoid possible tariffs and ILA strike activity in January."

Source: gcaptain.com; December 11, 2024

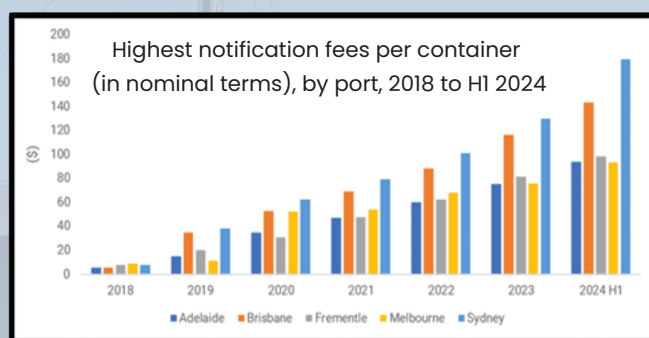
Shipping Crisis Down Under: Australia Warns of Stevedore Squeeze on Aussie Importers



Australian importers are facing unprecedented challenges in container shipping, with some paying up to eleven times more for ocean freight compared to previous years, according to a new report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The crisis stems from multiple factors, including global supply chain disruptions, Panama Canal restrictions, and Red Sea attacks forcing vessels to avoid the Suez Canal. Industrial action at DP World's terminals has further complicated the situation. "It's been a difficult time for businesses dependant on the container freight supply chain, which in turn affects consumers and impacts the Australian economy through higher costs and shipping delays," stated ACCC Commissioner Anna Brakey.

The investigation reveals concerning trends in stevedoring costs. Between 2016-17 and 2023-24, stevedoring revenue per container jumped by 22.6% (\$72.16), while costs only increased by 8.9% (\$24.22). This disparity suggests



significant market inefficiencies, with stevedores apparently leveraging their position to increase prices beyond competitive levels.

Empty container parks have also contributed to the crisis, with notification fees skyrocketing from \$5.50 per container in 2018 to as high as \$179.40 in Sydney and \$143.30 in Brisbane by early 2024.

The ACCC's findings point to systemic market failures, with importers and exporters facing limited options to negotiate or switch services. "Reform may be needed to improve the efficiency of the container freight supply chain," Brakey emphasized, suggesting potential policy or regulatory interventions to address these market failures.

For Australian businesses, these challenges have resulted in lost sales, cash flow problems, and potential reputational damage. The ACCC's continued monitoring of this situation across major ports including Adelaide, Brisbane, Fremantle, Melbourne, and Sydney suggests that without intervention, these issues may persist.

Source: gcaptain.com; December 23, 2024

Shipments Of Timber Products Through Ports In Peninsular Malaysia **November 2024**

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m³)	% change Oct'24/Nov'24
	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change		
Sawntimber	36,340	-1	121	-99	460	-14	246	-35	4,685	18	41,816	-23
MDF	21,069	30	3,208	100	1,951	-28	295	-21	143	-32	26,666	37
Mouldings	13,863	-12	0	-100	786	-36	2,163	39	354	31	17,166	-9
Plywood	8,060	-51	0	0	241	279	280	-63	6,764	8	15,345	59
Veneer	1,796	-3	0	0	0	-100	0	0	2,219	-26	1,796	-3
Particleboard	13,128	-19	0	0	15	-96	0	0	4,059	6	17,202	-16
TOTAL	94,219	5	3,329	-74	3,453	-30	2,984	-3	18,224	4	122,210	-4

Berangan

Prepared by: Tc. Mohd Zabidi Mohd

INTRODUCTION

The Standard Malaysian Name for the timber of *Castanopsis* spp. (Fagaceae Family). Vernacular names applied include berangan (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak) with various epithets, kogopon (Sabah), maruwit (Sarawak) and various other localised names too numerous to be listed here. Major species include *C. borneensis*, *C. buruana*, *C. clemensii*, *C. curtisii*, *C. endertii*, *C. evansii*, *C. foxworthyi*, *C. fulva*, *C. hypophoenicea*, *C. inermis*, *C. javanica*, *C. malaccensis*, *C. microphylla*, *C. motleyana*, *C. oviformis*, *C. paucispina*, *C. psilophylla*, *C. rhamnifolia* and *C. schefferiana*. The sapwood is light brown, often with a greenish tinge and sharply defined from the heartwood, which is dark brown or dark red-brown. It is also known as Indian chestnut (India); Saninten (Indonesia); Fan, Ko and Ko deng (Laos); Katia (Myanmar); New Guinea oak (Papua New Guinea); Gasa and Philippines chestnut (Philippines); Khodui, Kholaem, Ko and Ko nam (Thailand); and Ca-oi (Vietnam).

DENSITY

The timber is moderately hard and ranges from moderately heavy to heavy. It is classified under Light Hardwood with a density of 610-980 kg/m³ when air-dried.

TEXTURE

The texture is coarse and uneven due to the irregular distribution of the vessels. The grain is fairly straight but sometimes interlocked.

NATURAL DURABILITY

Standard graveyard tests on *C. malaccensis* revealed that the timber has an average lifespan of 2.6 years (Tam, 1983). This thus places the timber in the borderline between moderately and non-durable. Previous records, however, show that berangan is generally not durable, being susceptible to fungal, powder post and ambrosia beetle attacks (Foxworthy, 1930; Desch, 1957).

PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

The timber is very difficult to treat with preservatives. Under standard open tank treatment using a mixture of creosote and diesel fuel on test stick of 65mm x 65mm x 900mm, an average absorption of only 16.3 kg/m³ (1.00 lb/ft³) was obtained (Tam, 1983).

STRENGTH PROPERTIES

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

Strength Properties of Berangan

Test Condition	Modulus of Elasticity (MPa)	Modulus of Rupture (MPa)	Compression parallel to grain (MPa)	Compression perpendicular to grain (MPa)	Shear Strength (MPa)
Green	12,000	58	31.5	4.94	8.2

MACHINING PROPERTIES

It is moderately easy to resaw and easy to cross-cut. Planing is easy and the planed surface is smooth.

AIR DRYING

The timber seasons fairly slowly without any defects, except for some staining. A 25 mm thick board takes approximately five months to air dry.

SHRINKAGE

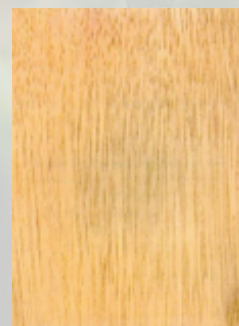
Shrinkage is high, with radial shrinkage averaging at 2.3% and tangential shrinkage averaging at 4.5%.

DEFECTS

Berangan logs are generally free from defects. However, they are very susceptible to termite attacks.

USES

The timber is suitable for medium to heavy construction under cover, furniture, packing boxes and crates, pallets (expendable type), door and window frames and sills, staircase (carriage and newel), tool handles (impact), railway sleepers, joinery, cabinet-making and plywood.



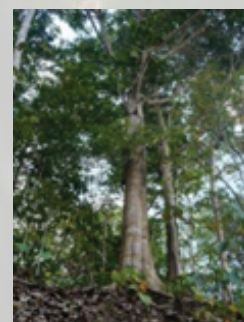
Texture



Cross Section



Leaves



Tree

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3-4 DECEMBER 2024



Mesuarat Pengukuhan Timber Legality Assurance System Semenanjung (MyTLAS) Bersama Agensi Pelaksana (AP-MyTLAS) Bil 2/2024 chaired by YBrs. Tuan Saiful Bahri Salleh, Director General of MTIB in Johor Bahru



9-13 DECEMBER 2024



"Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to Reduce Tropical Deforestation (LEAP) - Training on Combating Forestry Crime And Illicit Timber Trafficking" held in Kuala Lumpur



18-20 DECEMBER 2024



"Bengkel Pemantapan SOP Akaun Belum Terima (ABT) dan Penyeragaman Tatacara Pemungutan Hutang MTIB" officiated by YBrs. Encik Mohd Amin Kadir Deputy Director General (Management and Operations) MTIB



22 DECEMBER 2024



"Taklimat Penggunaan Perkhidmatan MyGovUC 3.0" launched by YBrs. Encik Mohd Amin Kadir, Deputy Director General (Management and Operations) and Chief Digital Officer of MTIB

