



Technology Transfer Course: Sustainable Forest Plantation Techniques

🌿 MTIB's Showcase: Malaysian Legal and Sustainable Timber Offering at World Expo 2025, Japan

🌿 Perceptive Profile Sdn. Bhd.



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TÜRKİYE



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Technology Transfer Course: Sustainable Forest Plantation Techniques

Prepared by: Encik Zulhelmi Mohd Ali

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) successfully organised a Technology Transfer Course on Sustainable Forest Plantation Techniques in Keningau, Sabah on 17 - 19 June 2025. The course aimed to enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of best practices in sustainable forest plantation management, in line with the objectives of the Forest Plantation Development Programme (PPLH).

“A total of 12 participants attended the course, comprising managers, supervisors, and forest plantation company owners from Peninsular Malaysia. The course provided both theoretical insights and practical exposure related to forest plantation techniques that support long-term environmental sustainability and resource security.”

Topics that were covered in this course were the current status of the PPLH, as well as silviculture practices in forest plantations which were presented by Encik Mohd Badrul Hisham Abdul Razak, Senior Manager (Plantation Development) from Forest Plantation Development Sdn. Bhd. (FPDSB). These sessions highlighted important aspects such as species selection, planting techniques and maintenance.

The highlight of this course was the knowledge-sharing session by Encik Abdul Rahman Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn. Bhd. (JPISB). He shared valuable insight and experience on managing a sustainable forest plantation in Sabah, emphasising the importance of strategic planning, operational discipline, and adherence to forestry regulations.

To complement the classroom sessions, participants were taken on a site visit to JPISB's forest plantation in Sapulut Forest Reserve. This visit provided firsthand exposure to the implementation of silviculture practices and sustainable forest management techniques in a real-world setting. It allowed participants to observe, interact, and gain deeper appreciation of the challenges and successes of an established forest plantation.

The course successfully equipped participants with practical knowledge and encouraged the exchange of experiences between government agencies and industry players. MTIB hopes to continue organising similar programmes in the future to further strengthen the development of sustainable forest plantations in Malaysia.



MTIB's Showcase: Malaysian Legal and Sustainable Timber Offering at World Expo 2025, Japan

Prepared by: Cik Nurul Affidah Jeffri

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) successfully participated in the World Expo 2025 Osaka, Japan held from 9 to 15 June 2025, as part of the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities' (KPK) Agri-Commodity Week (Week 9). Aligning with the Expo's theme, *Designing Future Society for Our Lives*, and KPK's sub-theme, *Necessities of Life: Food, Clothing, Shelter*, MTIB highlighted Malaysia's commitment to sustainable timber production and innovation. The event provided a global platform to promote Malaysian timber and timber products, foster international partnerships and explore new market opportunities, to the 168 participating countries particularly Japan.

Throughout the week, MTIB organised a series of engaging activities at the Malaysia Pavilion, including interactive exhibitions, product demonstrations, product displays, business matching sessions and pocket talks. The *Thematic Corner* showcased innovative bamboo-based and sustainable timber products by Hangterra Bamboo Sdn. Bhd. from Kedah, featuring sustainable building materials and lifestyle products, which further underscored Malaysia's advancements in eco-friendly material and innovations. At the same time, the *Business Hall* hosted a *Pocket Talk* entitled *What You Need to Know About Sustainable Timber from Malaysia*, featuring expert speakers from MTIB, the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) and industry leaders. The sessions emphasised Malaysia's robust forest management practices and certification systems,



Malaysia Pavillion at World Expo 2025 Osaka, Japan.

such as the Malaysian Timber Legality Assurance System (Peninsular) (MyTLAS) and the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), reinforcing the country's reputation as a global supplier of legal and sustainable timber.

Interactive demonstrations, including a contemporary wood carving showcase by renowned carver Encik Mazlan Ahmad from MBA Badai, Pulau Langkawi, Kedah and a few sessions of DIY oudh perfume-making demonstration near the Pavilion Malaysia grounds captivated visitors.



KPK Delegation posing for a photo with YBr. Dato' Abdul Hadi Omar, Deputy Secretary General (Strategic Planning & Management), Ministry of Plantation & Commodities (KPK)

“The Expo also provided opportunities for MTIB to strengthen diplomatic and trade ties through official visits to the pavilions of Japan, Kuwait, China, and Germany. These engagements offered insights into global best practices and international trade as well as opened doors for future collaborations. With over 75 participants attending the Pocket Talk sessions and promising business leads, MTIB’s participation together with other timber related parties will contribute to boost Malaysia’s timber exports, particularly in high-value products like furniture and engineered wood with the Japanese timber and timber industry players.”

In conclusion, MTIB’s involvement in World Expo 2025 Osaka was a resounding success, aligning with Malaysia’s goals of promoting sustainable industries and expanding its global footprint. The event not only enhanced the visibility of Malaysian timber products but also paved the way for strategic partnerships, technological exchange and further market diversification. Moving forward, MTIB aims to leverage these opportunities to drive growth and innovation in Malaysia’s timber sector, ensuring its competitiveness in the international arena.



Visitors at the Thematic Corner, Malaysia Pavilion



Innovating Sustainability Through Bamboo Technology by Showcasing Bamboo-Based Product and Business Matching Sessions



DIY Oudh Perfume Making and Wood Carving Demonstration Sessions



Pocket Talk



PERCEPTIVE PROFILE SDN. BHD.

Prepared by: Puan Norjihan A. Bakar

Perceptive Profile Sdn. Bhd. (PPSB) is the leading player in the PVC Edging market in Malaysia. PPSB began with just four lines of manufacturing and the initial capacity of 100,000 linear meters of PVC profiles per month. Located in the North-West part of Malaysia in the state of Perak, Perceptive Profile has its own manufacturing facilities and undertakes full R&D and production on site, making it the leading player in local PVC edging products. In 1995, which was its inception year, PPSB gained acknowledgment from customers in the PVC industry and also international notice for its skills and abilities. Currently, PPSB's PVC has been successfully established locally and in international markets.

PPSB has moved towards a new platform through Research and Development (R&D) in developing Wood Plastic Composite (WPC) products, a Hi-Tech environment protection material for the future. WPC is a 100% recyclable agrobio-based product. The company registered its products under the trademark "ABWOOD". PPSB's WPC products are credentialed as termite-resistant with a quality trademark by Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM).

In 2010, PPSB became a member of Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia and could now partake in commercial and government projects throughout the country. PPSB later successfully obtained the ISO 9001:2008 and gained the Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) Eco-Labeling License to strengthen the reputation of its brand, ABWOOD.



MISSION

Sustainable landscape architecture, a designed green lung in the city and neighbourhood primarily aimed to elevate the living standard and social prosperity of the community.



VISSION

Continuously seeking improvements through innovation, technology, quality and entrepreneurship

PVC Edging

PVC Edge Banding comes in a variety of unique texture & colour finishing. There is an assortment of elegant, classical and sophisticated colours to choose from to enhance the aesthetic feature of office and household furniture. PPSB also supplies exceptionally thin edging, 0.3-0.35mm, which are commonly and generally used in the market. PPSB also offers colour matching services to complement chipboard colour or distinctive colour request.



ABWOOD®



The materials used by PPSB have an important role in preserving our environment. PPSB can fully optimise and re-use virtually all sorts of natural waste such as wood flour and sawdust to create an environmentally friendly and 100% re-cycled product named Agro-Bio Wood, carrying the trade name, ABWOOD®.

ABWOOD® decking is made by combining saw dust fibres with plastic (PE, PP or PVC, depending on the customer's requirements) to create a durable decking material. The combination of fibre and plastic creates a product that is both strong and dense. Because composite deck doesn't rot, ABWOOD® lasts longer than traditional decking products made out of timber.

ABWOOD® hollow sections are materials suitable for construction of pergolas and gazebos. Whether terrace or garden pergolas, the lightweight profiles replace heavy steel sections and wood which demand periodic painting and surface coating to retain their original conditions.

ABWOOD® outdoor furniture can be supplied and installed in all type of conditions and locations. ABWOOD® outdoor furniture which includes benches, picnic tables, planter boxes and sun loungers, is most suitable for an environmentally green project. ABWOOD® can also create quality outdoor furniture to meet specific requirements.

ABWOOD® profiles are also suitable as replacement for wood or other materials when it comes to building outdoor railings as they do not deteriorate from rigorous weather conditions. ABWOOD® doors are unique and distinctive with the benefits of Anti-Termite and Water Resistance. The doors are also high impact resistant, designed to seamlessly blend into the homely environment, creating a harmonious eco-friendly choice.

In the search for a new material to enhance production, the company has produced a range of metal reinforced WPC products for building structures.



Benefits and Advantages of ABWOOD®:

- Resist to Mildew Growth
- No Chemical Treatments Required
- Resist to Mildew Growth
- 100% Recyclable
- Fungus Free
- Termite Resistance
- Water Resistant
- Wear & Tear
- No Varnishing
- Eco Friendly
- Easy Installation
- Low Maintenance
- Slip Resistant
- Guarantee to Last
- Rich Wood Texture
- No Splinter & Cracking
- Natural UV resistant
- Weather Proof



i) ABWOOD® Decking



ii) ABWOOD® Profiles



ii) ABWOOD® Metal Reinforced WPC

ABWOOD® Latest Project with MTIB:



Rumah FAST Rakyat
Jenis Banjar - Mengkarak,
Bera, Pahang



Food and Beverage
KIOSK - Pantai Cahaya,
Port Dickson, Negeri
Sembilan



PERCEPTIVE PROFILE SDN. BHD.



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MAY 2025

Malaysia's timber and timber product exports in May 2025 rose by 5.9% in April to RM1.84 billion, supported by higher sales of sawntimber (up 37.3%), and wooden furniture (up 14.4%). However, total exports for January–May 2025 fell by 6.9% to RM9.03 billion compared to RM9.69 billion in the same period last year. Wooden furniture, the largest single timber export product, reached RM3.87 billion in the first five months, down 2.8% year-on-year. Veneer dropped 36.5%, fiberboard fell 20.6%, and sawntimber decreased by 12.6% due to slower demand in key markets.

Malaysia's timber export slowdown through early 2025 reflected broader global headwinds. Elevated interest rates and persistent inflation in major markets such as the United States and Europe have reduced housing starts and curbed consumer spending on non-essential goods like furniture and wood products. Although there are signs of recovery in U.S. demand, supported by easing mortgage rates and improving housing activity, the market remains cautious. This is further compounded by the recent implementation of U.S. reciprocal tariffs on selected imported goods, including certain timber and timber-based products, which have raised import costs and discouraged American buyers from placing large-volume orders from Malaysia.

In addition, the global furniture and housing market downturn has disrupted supply chains and trade flows. Weaker demand indicators and declining order volumes suggest that parts of the furniture industry may already be experiencing a mild recession. These macroeconomic pressures, combined with trade tensions, tariff-related uncertainties, and geopolitical risks, have contributed to the mixed performance of Malaysia's timber exports in 2025.



SAWNTIMBER

Total sawntimber exports in May 2025 surged to 154,437 m³ with a value of RM215,296,846. This reflected a substantial 63% increase in volume and a 37% increase in value compared to 94,863 m³ and RM156,767,424 exported in April 2025. Cumulative exports for January–May 2025 reached 446,665 m³ valued at RM797,752,877, showing a 5% increase in volume but a 13% drop in value compared to the same period in 2024.

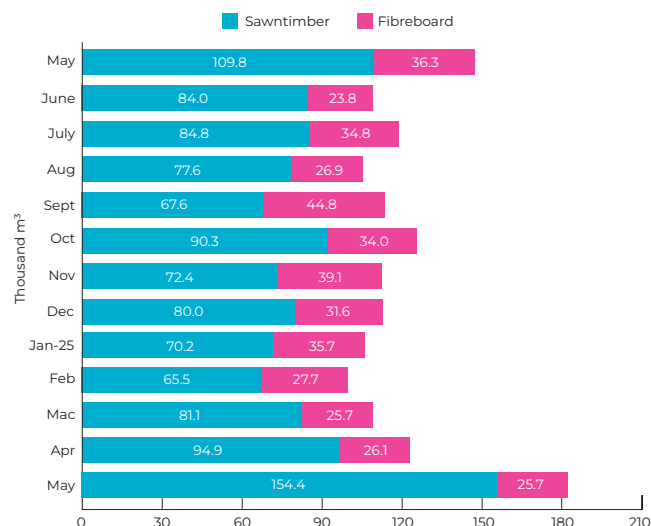
Exports to the European Union reached 32,839 m³, marking a significant 45% increase from April. The Netherlands, the leading destination, saw a 65% increase to 1,985 m³, while Belgium's imports fell by 23% to 598 m³. Greece also posted a notable 100% increase to 8,787 m³ after recording no export in April. In contrast, the United Kingdom's exports rose by 60% totalling at 1,293 m³.

In South Asia, May shipments increased by 23% to 12,798 m³. India imported 6,023 m³, a 6% increase from April. Maldives' imports rose by 49% to 3,466 m³, and Sri Lanka's purchases increased by 40% to 2,318 m³. Exports to West Asia increased by 49%, reaching 18,415 m³. The United Arab Emirates registered a 37% increase in imports, with shipments up to 4,687 m³. However, Iraq's volume dropped by 34% to 1,025 m³, while Saudi Arabia recorded a 21% decrease to 901 m³.

Exports to East Asia saw a 109% increase to 49,915 m³. This was led by China, which recorded a sharp increase of 223%, with imports rising to 45,962 m³. On the other hand, Taiwan saw an 88% decrease to 811 m³, while Japan's imports rose by 13% to 1,939 m³. In the ASEAN region, total shipments increased by 48% to 22,911 m³. The Philippines posted a 76% increase to 6,722 m³. In comparison, Thailand's imports grew by 31% to 7,074 m³, while Singapore registered a 29% increase to 7,381 m³.

In Africa, exports dropped sharply by 75% to 1,288 m³. South Africa imported 791 m³, a 68% decline, while Mauritius saw a 17% decrease to 335 m³. Exports to North America surged by 316% to 14,017 m³, with the entire volume being shipped to the United States. In the Oceania/Pacific region, exports rose by 28% to 961 m³, with Australia increasing imports by 21% and New Zealand receiving 19 m³ after no exports in April.

Malaysia: Export of Sawn Timber and MDF



“ The average FOB price for overall sawntimber declined by 16%, from RM1,653 per m³ in April to RM1,394 per m³ in May. Dark Red Meranti (DRM) exports declined 8% to 2,159 m³, Keruing fell by 81% to 644 m³, and DRM to the Netherlands fell 15% to 3,129 m³. ”

The Baltic region is emerging as a major sawntimber production hub, boosted by HS Timber Group's recent acquisitions in Latvia, which added 550,000 m³ of capacity. Leveraging certified sustainable timber, modern facilities, competitive labour costs, and strategic logistics, Baltic mills are well-positioned to serve over 30 global markets. This growing capacity is expected to reshape regional trade flows, strengthen the Baltic's role in meeting EU sustainability and supply chain compliance requirements, and potentially pressure higher-cost producers elsewhere to consolidate, diversify, or face reduced margins.

PLYWOOD

Export for plywood in May 2025 recorded an increase of 13% in volume at 102,472 m³ and 5% increase in value to RM191.5 million as compared to the previous month. The cumulative exports for the period of January–May 2025 show an increase of 5% in volume to 471,246 m³ but 9% decrease in value totalling at RM933.8 million over the previous corresponding period. The EU region recorded an increasing trend for plywood export by 53%, from 1,560 m³ to 2,384 m³. Poland increased its purchases by 63% to 369 m³. The Netherlands decreased buying by 74% to 44 m³ while Germany didn't make any purchase for the month. In other parts of Europe, imports increased by 9% to 6,405 m³ from 5,905 m³ in the previous month. Plywood purchases by the UK decreased by 4% to 2,879 m³, while Türkiye increased its purchases by 20% to 3,493 m³.

Moving to the East Asia market, the volume rose by 11% to 64,371 m³ from 58,049 m³ in April. Japan as the largest importer from the region increased its buying by 15% to 56,079 m³. South Korea decreased sales by 13% to 2,773 m³, followed by Taiwan with a decrease of 12% to 4,935 m³. In the ASEAN region, import increased by 31% from 3,884 m³ to 5,098 m³. Plywood export to the Philippines and Singapore dropped by 4% to 662 m³ and 9% to 2,152 m³ each. Meanwhile, Thailand increased buying by 271% to 2,028 m³.

“ In the South Asia region, plywood purchases recorded a decrease of 25% from 257 m³ to 193 m³. India maintained its import to 84 m³ while Maldives decreased buying by 37% to 109 m³. Pakistan didn't make any purchase for the month. The West Asia region also recorded a decrease of 64% to 3,279 m³ from 9,180 m³ in the previous month. Import performance in Yemen reduced by 77% to 1,882 m³ while the UAE increased buying by 33% to 482 m³. Jordan didn't make any purchase for the month. ”

In the Africa region, plywood export recorded a decrease of 26% from 144 m³ to 107 m³. South Africa reduced its buying by 56% to 64 m³ while Mauritius resumed it buying with 43 m³. The North America region showed an increase of 100%

from 9,247 m³ to 18,509 m³. The USA as the main buyer, increased its purchases by 119% to 16,664 m³, followed by Mexico with an increase of 11% to 1,766 m³ and Canada by 97% to 79 m³. In the Oceania/Pacific region, plywood export depleted by 30% from 2,897 m³ to 2,037 m³ with purchase from Australia at 1,610 m³.

The FOB price of plywood for May 2025 was at RM2,203 per m³, an increase of 10% from RM2,005 per m³ from the previous month.

Total construction starts in the USA rebounded 13% in May but still lagged at last year's level of shovels hitting dirt, according to Dodge Construction Network. Non-residential building starts, which include office, hotel and healthcare work, jumped 18% in May, while non-building activity such as highways, bridges and utility projects grew by 70%. Residential starts ticked up 2% during the month. The rebound offers some relief for contractors after a slow April, though economic uncertainty and ongoing policy questions may limit how long the momentum lasts.

VENEER

Veneer exports for May 2025 increased in volume by 8% to 1,985 m³ and 10% increased in value that worth RM4.8 million as compared to the previous month. The cumulative export for January–May 2025 showed a decrease in both volume and value by 27% to 11,959 m³ and 37% to RM23.7 million respectively over the previous corresponding period.

“ ASEAN recorded a decrease of 73% in veneer import from 101 m³ to 27 m³. Singapore increased purchases by 589% from 4 m³ to 27 m³. Viet Nam didn't make any purchase for this month. In East Asia, export decreased by 22% from 1,478 m³ to 1,149 m³. Japan and China improved their veneer imports by 320% to 441 m³ and 59% to 511 m³ respectively. South Korea didn't make any purchase for the month. Meanwhile, South Asia increased import by 139% from 181 m³ to 433 m³. Veneer purchases by India increased by 333% to 352 m³ while Bangladesh reduced its buying by 19% to 81 m³. ”

Moving to North America, veneer import recorded an increase of 437% to 346 m³ from 64 m³. The USA and Canada increased buying by 795% to 315 m³ and 6% to 31 m³ each. In the Oceania/Pacific region, Australia resumed its buying with 14 m³ while Africa didn't make any purchase for the month.

The average FOB price for veneer increased by 1% from RM2,345 per m³ to RM2,379 per m³ as compared to the previous month.

The decorative veneer industry in India is expected to grow from USD296.8 million in 2025 to USD474.3 million by 2035, reflecting a steady CAGR of 4.8%. Increasing demand for upscale home interiors and commercial fit-outs is a key growth driver. Urbanisation, rising disposal incomes and preference for sustainable materials are supporting this momentum. Apart from home interiors and commercial fit-

outs, the fast-growing furniture sector, valued at USD17.56 billion in 2024 with an expected CAGR of 11.2% through 2029 is reinforcing veneer demand. Manufacturers are innovating with multifunctional finishes such as marble-look and stone-look veneers that mimic luxury materials, meeting demand for cost-effective, durable décor solutions.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in May 2025 recorded a 2% decrease in volume at 25,658 m³ but a 15% increase in value at RM51.7 million compared to the previous month. However, the cumulative export for the period of January–May 2025 recorded a decrease in volume by 20% to 140,927 m³ and also in value by 21% to a total of RM261.7 million as compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

Export to ASEAN decreased by 16% from 6,163 m³ to 5,157 m³ compared to the previous month. The Philippines and Viet Nam reduced their imports by 9% and 35% to 3,268 m³ and 791 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia increased its import by 1% to 955 m³.

Elsewhere, East Asia's purchases for MDF increased by 71% from 6,043 m³ to 10,340 m³ compared to the previous month. Imports of MDF from Japan, Taiwan and South Korea recorded improvements of 84%, 34% and 4% to 9,231 m³, 666 m³ and 443 m³ respectively. Moving to the South Asia market, export volume declined by 47% from 1,942 m³ to 1,028 m³. Export performance to Pakistan fell by 50% to 753 m³ while India increased its buying by 93% to 254 m³.

Export to the West Asia region recorded a decrease of 49% from 7,653 m³ to 3,910 m³ compared to the previous month. The UAE increased orders by 180% to 2,938 m³ while Yemen and Saudi Arabia did not make any purchase for the month. In Europe, the UK increased its purchases by 62% to 81 m³ while in Central America, Guatemala increased its buying by 100% to 86 m³. On the other hand, countries in the EU and South America regions did not make any purchase for the month.

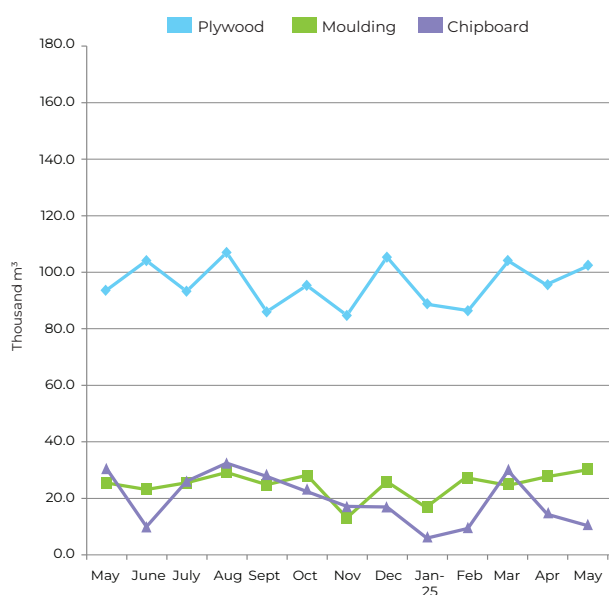
Export to the Oceania/Pacific region recorded an increase of 32% to 1,818 m³ from 1,374 m³. Australia and New Zealand increased their purchases by 31% to 1,775 m³ and 100% to 43 m³ respectively. MDF exports to North America also showed an increase of 19% from 2,694 m³ to 3,197 m³ compared to the previous month. Purchases by Canada and Mexico increased by 129% to 818 m³ and 63% to 692 m³ each. The USA reduced its buying by 12% to 1,687 m³. In the Africa region, South Africa recorded a decrease of 68% to 42 m³.

The average FOB price of MDF decreased by 10% to RM1,784 per m³ from RM1,971 per m³ in the previous month.

The Japanese economy is recovering at a moderate pace, while the uncertainty arising from the US trade policies remains. Japan's construction market is set to grow 4.4% annually, reaching JPY32.44 trillion in 2025 and JPY 38.75 trillion by 2029. With a focus on residential, commercial,

institutional and industrial sectors, the market offers significant opportunities in green, smart and modular construction. Opportunities abound in sustainable and disaster-resilient residential construction, backed by government incentives for urban development, energy-efficiency housing and earthquake-resistant construction. With an aging population and urban constraints, demand for senior-friendly and compact smart homes is rising. However, challenges such as land use restrictions, declining rural demand and construction cost hikes could impede growth. Developers are encouraged to adopt green housing innovations and leverage modular construction to stay competitive while government subsidies help offset rising costs.

Malaysia: Export of Major Timber Product
May 2024 – May 2025^P



MOULDINGS

The export of mouldings in May 2025 increased by 3% in volume, reaching 23,261 m³ and by 4% in value, amounting to RM84.8 million as compared to April 2025. For the cumulative period of January–May 2025, exports of mouldings were down by 56% in volume to 0.1 million m³ and by 3% in value to RM382.0 million over the same period in 2024.

Exports to ASEAN countries increased by 19% to 744 m³ in May 2025, up from 623 m³ in April 2025. Exports to Singapore rose by 2% to 615 m³ while Viet Nam dropped its intake by 22% to 16 m³ from the previous month.

In the East Asia region, export of mouldings were recorded at 1,515 m³ in May 2025, an improvement of 9% from 1,391 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Japan and Republic of Korea increased by 16% to 784 m³ and 7% to 653 m³, respectively. Similarly, export to Hong Kong increased by 28% to 54 m³ compared to April 2024.

In the South Asia region, export volume showed an impressive trend, increasing by 77% to 125 m³ in May 2025 compared to the previous month. This increase was driven by demand from the Maldives which rose by 40% to 99 m³ while India resumed its intake with 27 m³ in May 2025. However, exports to the UAE dropped by 60% to 36 m³ for the month.

Exports to the EU showed a negative trend, decreasing by 92% to 415 m³ in May 2025 compared to 5,036 m³ in April 2025. Export to the Netherlands grew by 17% to 3,808 m³, while France dropped by 7% to 685 m³ for the month. Intake from Belgium grew by 76% to 241 m³. Meanwhile, intake from the UK increased by 57% to 415 m³ for the month.

In the Oceania/Pacific region, total exports decreased by 17%, reaching 981 m³ in May 2025 compared to 1,180 m³ in April 2024 due to reduced intake from Australia. The country recorded a decrease of 19% to 955 m³ for the month as compared to 1,180 m³ in the previous month.

In North America, the total demand decreased by 4% to 13,018 m³ in May 2025 when compared to the previous month. Export to the USA declined by 6% to 12,504 m³, while export to Canada increased by 83% to 496 m³ for the month.

In the Africa region, total exports dropped by 18% to 337 m³ compared to 413 m³ in April 2025. Exports to Mauritius and South Africa decreased by 2% to 219 m³ and by 58% to 79 m³ for the month.

The average FOB unit value for mouldings for May 2025 decreased by 16% to RM3,024/m³ compared to RM3,590/m³ in April 2025.

According to Chile Construction Market Outlook Report - Market Size, Share Analysis and Forecast (2025-2034), published by ResearchAndMarkets.com, Chile's construction market size reached around USD32.1 billion in 2024. Aided by the increasing focus on sustainable building practices and eco-friendly materials and the growing demand for urban development projects, the market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 5% between 2025 and 2034 to attain nearly USD49.8 billion by 2034. The Chile construction market growth is driven by rising infrastructure investments, urbanisation, and an increasing demand for residential, commercial, and industrial projects. The expansion of the construction sector is fuelled by both public and private sector initiatives aimed at improving transportation networks, modernising urban spaces, and developing energy-efficient buildings.

Government policies promoting infrastructure development, coupled with foreign direct investments, have further strengthened market growth, contributing to the expansion of roads, bridges, airports, and housing projects across the country. Additionally, the ongoing recovery from economic fluctuations has provided a stable foundation for the construction market, ensuring continued development in both urban and rural areas. The increasing focus on sustainable construction practices has become a key driver of the Chile construction market expansion, as developers and builders prioritise environmentally friendly materials, energy-efficient technologies, and green building standards. With growing awareness of climate change and environmental impact, the adoption of sustainable construction methods has gained momentum, leading to an increased demand for eco-friendly building materials such as recycled concrete, timber, and energy-efficient insulation. The integration of smart building technologies, including automation systems, energy monitoring, and renewable energy solutions, has further transformed the construction landscape, making modern infrastructure more resilient and resource efficient.

The rising demand for residential housing, fuelled by population growth, urban expansion, and government incentives for homeownership, is boosting the Chile's construction market revenue. The increasing number of young professionals and middle-class families seeking affordable housing solutions has driven the need for multi-family residential projects, apartment complexes, and mixed-use developments. Developers are focusing on creating high-quality, cost-effective housing solutions that cater to various income levels while also incorporating modern amenities and sustainable design features. The expansion of mortgage financing options and government-backed housing initiatives has further contributed to the growth of the residential construction segment, ensuring greater accessibility to homeownership for a larger portion of the population.

Despite the positive outlook, the Chile construction market faces challenges such as rising material costs, labour shortages, and regulatory complexities. The volatility in the prices of raw materials, including cement, steel, and lumber, has impacted project budgets and construction timelines. Additionally, the shortage of skilled labour has led to increased competition for experienced workers, prompting companies to invest in workforce training and development programmes. Regulatory requirements and approval processes for construction projects can also pose challenges, necessitating efficient planning and compliance with local building codes, safety standards, and environmental regulations. As the demand for smart cities and sustainable buildings continues to rise, the integration of innovative construction solutions will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the market. The expansion of investment opportunities, coupled with a strong focus on sustainability and modernisation, will further drive the development of the market, ensuring long-term stability and progress in the industry.

BUILDERS JOINERY CARPENTRY

The total export of builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC) in May 2025 grew by 28% in volume to 13.2 million kg and by 36% in value to RM125.2 million, whereas for the cumulative period of January–May 2025, the export of BJC increased by 12% in volume to 59.8 million kg and 8% in value worth RM560.5 million as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2024.

Shipments of BJC to ASEAN are valued at RM37.2 million, a decrease of 35% from RM57.0 million. Singapore as the main buyer decreased its buying by 48%, valued at RM21.3 million as compared to the previous year. Similarly, there was a cutback in export to Viet Nam by 38% totalling at RM4.0 million. However, export to Thailand increased by 27% worth RM7.5 million for the period of January–May 2025.

As for the East Asia region, exports decreased by 24% from RM42.2 million to RM32.3 million. Japan, despite being the main buyer from this region dropped its buying by 19% to RM25.1 million from RM30.9 million over the same corresponding period. Similarly, exports to China and Taiwan also declined by 31% to RM3.6 million and by 58% to RM1.7 million respectively.

Exports to South Asia totalled at RM9.0 million, a decrease of 56% from RM20.5 million in the corresponding period 2024. Both India and Maldives decreased their imports by 44% amounting to RM6.5 million and by 58% to RM1.3 million respectively. Similarly, Bangladesh reduced its purchases significantly from RM0.6 million to RM0.1 million during the period of January–May 2025.

As for the West Asia region, the total export of BJC grew significantly by 657%, totalling at RM11.0 million as compared to RM1.4 million from the previous year. The main buyer from this region was Saudi Arabia with a total purchase of RM10.1 million, which increased tremendously from RM0.07 million in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, demand from Kuwait also increased by 600% worth RM49,593 for the stated period. Meanwhile, export to the UAE dropped by 46% to RM0.7 million from RM1.4 million in the period of January–May 2024.

The total export of BJC to the European Union region grew by 16%, totalling up from RM99.2 million to RM115.5 million. Intake from Belgium increased by 62% worth RM44.8 million and followed by the Netherlands, where imports improved by 3% worth RM36.1 million. Nevertheless, intake from France dropped by 10% to RM6.0 million for the stated period. Meanwhile, the exports to other parts of Europe declined by 12% with a total amount of RM56.8 million. The United Kingdom decreased its intake by 11% worth RM54.5 million. Buying from Norway and Türkiye also dropped by 18% to RM1.9 million and by 50% to RM0.4 million, respectively.

Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific region increased by 2% to RM96.0 million in the period of January–May 2025. Australia as the main buyer increased its purchases by 2% with a total value of RM86.9 million from RM85.5 million in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, New Zealand improved its intake by 17% worth RM7.3 million while export to Tonga decreased by 45% to RM0.2 million for the stated period.

Shipments to the North America region increased by 48%, amounting to RM198.4 million with the USA as the main buyer from this region increasing its purchases by 49% with a total value of RM196.1 million. However, intake from Canada dropped by 16% to RM2.0 million.

Shipments to Africa on the other hand, increased by 1% to RM4.3 million in the period of January–May 2025. There was a decrease of BJC exports to South Africa by 6% from RM2.6 million to RM2.5 million. Similarly, Mauritius dropped its purchases by 22% to RM0.5 million, while Morocco resumed its intake with RM0.6 million for the cumulative period of January–May 2025.

According to the ‘Builders Joinery and Carpentry of Wood Market Landscape 2025: Forecast Data and Growth Strategy Insights’ report published by thebusinessresearchcompany.com, there has been a robust growth in the market size of timber builders’ joinery and carpentry in the recent past. The BJC’s market, which was valued at USD72.56 billion in 2024, is projected to reach USD76.72 billion in 2025, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.7%. Factors such as an increase in export promotion and trade agreements, government-funded vocational training and apprenticeship programs, tax benefits for sustainable practices, growing awareness about preserving cultural and architectural heritage, and an increase in disposable income and homeownership have contributed to the growth during

the historic period. Expectations are high for the builders’ joinery and carpentry of wood market, as robust growth is anticipated in the coming years. The market is set to soar to USD94.85 billion in 2029 with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.4%. There are several factors propelling this growth during the forecast period including enhanced research and development funding, an increment in green building efforts, an inclination towards luxury, emerging economies, and an uptick in renovation and remodeling activities in both residential and commercial fields.

FURNITURE

The total export value of wooden furniture in May 2025 increased by 14% to RM810.9 million compared to RM708.6 million in April 2025. However, cumulative exports for January–May 2025 stood at RM3.87 billion, representing a slight decline of 3% from RM3.98 billion recorded in the same period in 2024.

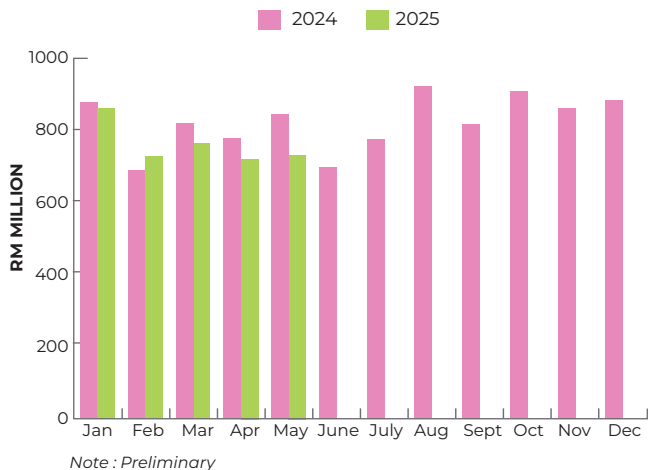
Shipments of wooden furniture to ASEAN were valued at RM479.1 million, a 4% decrease from RM497.0 million in the corresponding period of 2024. Singapore, as the main buyer, increased its purchases by 11% to RM321.9 million compared to the previous year. However, exports to the Philippines and Thailand contracted by 22% and 7%, valued at RM87.8 million and RM29.0 million respectively.

In the East Asia region, exports decreased by 13% from RM233.3 million to RM202.8 million. Japan, the leading buyer from this region, reduced its purchases by 9% to RM163.3 million from RM178.9 million in the same period last year. Exports to Taiwan fell by 16% to RM17.9 million, while sales to South Korea dropped sharply by 36% to RM10.6 million.

Exports to South Asia totalled at RM60.6 million, a 5% decrease from RM63.6 million in 2024. India recorded a marginal decline of less than 1% to RM56.5 million, while Maldives saw a sharp drop of 46% to RM3.0 million. Conversely, Bangladesh registered a significant increase of 247%, rising from RM0.12 million to RM0.42 million.

For Central Asia, exports decreased by 45% to RM1.06 million. Kazakhstan’s imports dropped by 45% to RM0.91 million, while no shipments were recorded to Armenia and Uzbekistan compared to the previous year.

Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture



As for the West Asia region, total export of wooden furniture decreased by 5% to RM202.8 million compared to RM212.4 million in the previous year. Saudi Arabia increased its imports by 6% to RM75.6 million, and Oman recorded a notable 50% growth to RM11.6 million. However, exports to the UAE declined by 18% to RM84.9 million.

Exports to the European Union fell by 20% from RM168.1 million to RM134.2 million. Belgium's intake decreased by 12% to RM17.3 million, France fell by 11% to RM16.5 million, and Poland dropped by 29% to RM12.5 million. Meanwhile, in other parts of Europe, there was a slight increase of 2% to RM203.6 million. The United Kingdom, as the main destination, saw a 7% increase to RM191.2 million, while Georgia fell by 9% to RM5.36 million and Türkiye experienced a sharp drop of 66% to RM2.43 million.

Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific region decreased by 20% to RM194.5 million. Australia, the main buyer, recorded a 19% decline to RM173.6 million. New Zealand's intake fell by 18% to RM13.4 million, while Papua New Guinea experienced a steep 73% drop to RM2.0 million.

In the Central America region, exports fell by 10% to RM17.0 million. Panama, as the largest buyer in the region, increased its intake by 40% to RM7.6 million. Exports to El Salvador rose by 8% to RM3.3 million, while Guatemala dropped imports by 13% to RM3.6 million.

Exports to North America increased by 2% amounting to RM2.29 billion. Canada registered a slight decline of 1% to RM167.6 million, while Puerto Rico recorded a strong growth of 54% to RM33.5 million. Shipments to the USA fell by 72% to RM40 thousand.

For South America, exports decreased by 31% to RM30.5 million. Chile recorded a 43% drop to RM15.9 million, Venezuela declined by 15% to RM1.34 million, and Peru fell by 24% to RM6.24 million.

Exports to Africa dropped by 11% to RM54.3 million. South Africa, as the largest buyer in the region, reduced its purchases by 9% to RM16.7 million. Tanzania recorded a sharp decline of 33% to RM2.75 million, while Libya increased its imports by 40% to RM2.47 million.

Exports of rattan furniture to the ASEAN region recorded a sharp decline of 44%, valued at RM2.04 million compared to RM3.64 million in the same period last year. Singapore, the main importer in this region, reduced its intake by 32% to RM0.64 million. Exports to Thailand fell by 52% to RM0.19 million, while shipments to Indonesia surged by 340% to RM0.16 million.

Exports to the East Asia region increased significantly by 75% to RM0.99 million, with Japan as the largest buyer. Shipments to Japan rose by 135% to RM0.60 million, while exports to Hong Kong jumped by 1,486% to RM0.09 million. In contrast, exports to China declined by 73% to RM0.07 million.

In the South Asia region, India remained the only market for Malaysia's rattan furniture, with exports more than doubling, up 126% to RM0.37 million compared to RM0.16 million last year.

Exports to the West Asia region rose by 35% to RM2.34 million. The UAE, the largest buyer in this region, reduced its purchases by 26% to RM0.68 million. In contrast, Iran resumed imports with shipments worth RM0.33 million, while Qatar increased its intake by 46% to RM0.02 million.

Shipments to the European Union increased strongly by 66% to RM7.22 million. Poland's purchases surged by 522% to RM0.64 million, the Netherlands' imports grew by 52% to RM0.36 million, while France recorded a modest decline of 9% to RM0.97 million.

In other parts of Europe, exports dropped by 42% to RM1.99 million. The United Kingdom, the largest buyer in this group, reduced its imports by 37% to RM1.90 million. Russia's purchases fell by 75% to RM0.05 million, while Switzerland resumed imports valued at RM0.86 thousand.

Exports to the Oceania/Pacific region fell by 8% to RM1.39 million. Australia, the dominant market, maintained stable purchases at RM1.36 million, 0.5% increase. No shipments were recorded to Fiji or New Caledonia during this period, compared to the previous year.

Shipments to North America rose by 25% to RM13.52 million. The USA, as the main market, increased its intake by 28% to RM11.64 million, while Canada saw strong growth of 68% to RM0.96 million. The Dominican Republic recorded a marginal increase of 2% to RM0.48 million.

In South America, exports grew by 29% to RM396,000 thousand, with Chile as the sole destination, recording a 17% increase in purchases. Exports to Africa dropped by 23% to RM449,000 thousand. Kenya, the only market in this region, reduced its imports by 17% to RM66,000 thousand.

In its latest semi-annual forecast released on May 15, 2025, *Furniture Today* highlighted a significant downward revision in the manufacturing growth outlook for the year. Overall manufacturing revenue is now projected to increase by only 0.1%, a steep drop from the 4.2% growth expected earlier in the year, and even below the 0.8% recorded in 2024. For the furniture and related products industry, the outlook is even more concerning as growth is forecast to be flat, making it one of only five sectors with stagnant or declining production this year. The expected operating rate for manufacturing stands at 79.2%, while capital expenditures are now projected to decline by 1.3% instead of the earlier forecasted 5.2% increase.

“Furniture producers are also facing added headwinds from tariffs and cost pressures. According to the report, 52% of manufacturers plan to pass on at least some of the increased costs to customers, while only 3% are prepared to fully absorb them. The remainder will likely use a mix of cost adjustments and efficiency measures to manage the impact. With global trade shifts and cautious consumer spending trends, the furniture sector's ability to maintain competitive pricing without eroding margins is becoming an increasing challenge for exporters and domestic producers alike.”

Production capacity across all manufacturing sectors is now expected to grow by only 1.8%, down from the 4% forecast at the start of the year. For the furniture industry, this means limited investment in expansion and a focus on sustaining existing operations amid slower market demand. Combined with flat employment projections, the sector's 2025 performance signals a year of consolidation rather than growth, requiring businesses to navigate not only softer market conditions but also structural shifts in trade, costs, and consumer behaviour.



Türkiye's Timber and Wood Industry



Overview

The Republic of Türkiye holds a unique and strategic position at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. With a population estimated at around 87.7 million in early 2025, it is a significant demographic force in the region. The country's vast geography stretches approximately 1,000 miles from west to east and 300–400 miles from north to south, encompassing a wide range of natural habitats. From sun-drenched beaches and towering mountains to fertile valleys and arid steppes, Türkiye's diverse landscape supports rich ecosystems teeming with a high number of endemic plant and animal species, reflecting its status as a global biodiversity hotspot. The Turkish economy demonstrated robust and resilient growth in 2024, outperforming initial market expectations. According to data released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), its gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 3.2% in 2024, surpassing the market forecast of 3.1%.

The growth trajectory throughout the year was not uniform, but it showed strong momentum. A key factor driving this growth was the strong performance of several key economic sectors. The construction sector, buoyed by significant post-earthquake reconstruction and infrastructure projects, was a major contributor, with its value-added factor increasing by 9.3% for the year. This sector's expansion had a ripple effect on related industries, such as the wood and building materials sectors. Other sectors also showed healthy growth, including financial and insurance activities (4.9%), agriculture (3.9%), and information and communication (3.4%). Services and household consumption were also significant drivers, with the final consumption expenditure of households increasing by 3.7% for the year.



Türkiye Forestry and Timber Productions

As of 2020, forests cover about 22.9 million hectares, or 29.4% of the country's land area, with 99% of them managed by the state. The total tree cover volume reached 1.7 billion m³, showing an increase of over 761 million m³ since 1973. Forest coverage grew from 26.7% in 1999 to 29% in 2020.



The largest population of the Lebanon cedar (Turkish: Toros sediri) is to be found in Türkiye. It is divided between forests in the East and West Taurus Mountains. The cedars that occur here are known as *Cedrus libani* subsp. (source: waldwissen.net)

Türkiye’s environment is characterised by a wide range of forest and grassland ecosystems, many of which are shared with neighbouring countries along the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. The country has a wide range of biomes, which include the temperate broadleaf and mixed forests, temperate grasslands, savannas, and shrublands, and the Mediterranean forests, woodlands, and scrub. Within these biomes, rich and diverse ecoregions have developed, giving Türkiye its unique vegetative characteristics and diverse fauna. For example, Northern Anatolia is home to temperate coniferous forests.

This biodiversity has been shaped by Türkiye's long cultural history, which has influenced the landscape and ecosystems over time. The complex interactions between species and their physical environment have created dynamic and diverse ecosystems. Additionally, Türkiye shares many of its forest and grassland ecosystems with neighbouring countries, making it an important region for both regional and global environmental conservation efforts.

According to FAO’s 2023 statistics, pulpwood (round and split, coniferous) was the most produced timber product in Türkiye, with an annual production volume of approximately 8.5 million cubic meters in 2023. Sawlogs and veneer logs (coniferous) followed closely, recording around 6.7 million cubic meters. Sawn wood (coniferous) ranked third, with production reaching 6.2 million cubic meters. Other significant timber products included particleboard (5.8 million m³), wood fuel (2.1 million m³), plywood and LVL (649,000 m³), wood chips and particles (525,000 m³), and veneer sheets (389,320 m³). The production of wood charcoal remained consistent at 800 tonnes annually throughout the 2019–2023 period.

TÜRKIYE: TIMBER PRODUCTIONS (2019 – 2023)

Products	Unit	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pulpwood, round and split, coniferous (production)	m³	6,900,000	7,650,000	10,400,000	10,400,000	8,448,026
Sawlogs and veneer logs, coniferous	m³	7,400,000	7,150,000	9,226,000	8,613,000	6,651,737
Sawn wood, coniferous	m³	5,915,000	6,975,000	6,920,000	6,450,000	6,150,000
Particle board	m³	4,355,000	4,075,000	5,675,000	5,625,000	5,770,000
Wood fuel, coniferous	m³	2,450,000	2,330,000	2,045,000	2,239,000	2,067,564
Other industrial roundwood, coniferous (production)	m³	730,000	730,000	1,292,000	964,000	899,768
Plywood and LVL	m³	112,000	96,000	600,000	620,000	649,000
Wood chips and particles	m³	130,000	120,000	450,000	500,000	525,000
Veneer sheets	m³	74,000	75,000	393,320	394,320	389,320
Wood charcoal	tonne	800	800	800	800	800

Source: FAO STATS

 Türkiye’s Exports of Timber and Timber Products

As of the latest available data, Türkiye’s timber and timber products including furniture exports recorded a total of USD 4.0 billion in 2024, showing a decline of 2.7% compared to USD 4.2 billion in 2023. This marked the second consecutive year of moderation following a peak in 2022, when exports reached USD 4.3 billion. Despite the slight dip, Türkiye's timber sector continues to maintain a strong international presence, supported by sustained global demand across several key product categories.

Furniture and parts thereof remained Türkiye’s top export item in 2024, contributing USD 2.3 billion or approximately 57% of total timber exports. Its furniture mainly exported to Iraq, Germany and United State for home furniture, office furniture and wooden and upholstered Furniture. Other major export products included fibreboard (USD 938.4 million), chipboard/ particle board (USD 260.3 million), and builders’ joinery and carpentry (USD 239.6 million). Exports of sawn timber and plywood were valued at USD 42.6 million and USD 65.0 million, respectively.

While most product segments showed relative stability, some, like mouldings and wooden frames, saw year-on-year fluctuations reflecting adjustments in international pricing and demand. The overall export trend suggested a maturing market, with continued reliance on high-demand categories such as panel products and value-added furniture.



TÜRKİYE: EXPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS TO WORLD, 2020-2024

USD'000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Furniture & Part Thereof	1,751,199	2,210,538	2,472,474	2,378,690	2,306,602
Fibreboard	488,998	738,031	834,355	899,664	938,365
Chipboard/ Particle board	158,822	240,409	288,514	257,124	260,274
Builders' joinery and carpentry	156,327	198,075	264,612	245,334	239,558
Plywood	20,681	43,485	96,626	100,026	64,966
Sawntimber	46,072	84,618	74,001	44,883	42,602
Veneer	29,030	41,461	60,614	41,206	35,197
Mouldings	10,602	16,719	24,546	39,291	30,666
Logs	8,271	10,185	7,419	6,172	8,584
Wooden frames	1,320	1,873	3,086	2,766	3,577
Others	56,901	98,927	165,719	138,377	110,834
Total	2,728,223	3,684,321	4,291,966	4,153,533	4,041,225

Source: ITC Stats

Over the past five years, Türkiye's timber and timber product exports (HS Code 44) have shown a generally upward trend, although growth has moderated in recent years. In 2024, total exports stood at USD 1.8 billion, a slight decline from USD 1.7 billion in 2023, following a peak of USD 1.8 billion in 2022.

Iraq remained Türkiye's top export destination, with a significant increase to USD 206.5 million in 2024, up from USD 173.9 million the previous year. Other key markets included Morocco (USD 134.4 million), Libya (USD 90.2 million), and the United States (USD 73.3 million), all reflecting continued demand for Turkish timber products. Notably, exports to Romania and Georgia remained strong at USD 69.8 million and USD 67.9 million, respectively.

Some traditional markets, such as Bulgaria and Canada, experienced a decline in 2024, suggesting shifting demand patterns or increased competition. Meanwhile, exports to Malaysia remained marginal, totalling just USD 41,000 in 2024 and ranked 143rd among Türkiye's export destinations.

Despite year-on-year fluctuations, Türkiye's timber sector continues to demonstrate resilience, supported by strong regional demand, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa.

TÜRKİYE: EXPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS BY COUNTRIES (HS CODE 44) TO WORLD, 2020-2024

USD'000

Rank	Importers	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Iraq	121,550	175,185	185,516	173,904	206,464
2	Morocco	26,505	61,576	73,240	109,035	134,410
3	Libya, State of	29,984	58,545	78,512	83,487	90,246
4	United States of America	19,325	35,379	55,530	52,351	73,293
5	Romania	23,731	32,678	55,144	73,481	69,757
6	Georgia	42,531	67,250	77,180	73,416	67,911
7	Bulgaria	22,503	42,651	87,182	76,374	58,734
8	Canada	39,127	65,159	77,542	54,019	56,873
9	Algeria	34,801	40,920	54,386	48,732	49,544
10	Serbia	12,701	23,130	38,947	52,378	48,947
143	Malaysia	160	155	53	60	41
	Others	604,106	871,153	1,036,260	977,606	878,401
	TOTAL	977,025	1,473,783	1,819,493	1,774,843	1,734,621

Source: ITC Stats





Türkiye's Imports of Timber and Timber Products

Over the past five years, Türkiye's imports of timber and timber products showed steady growth from 2020 to 2023, peaking at USD 1.4 billion in 2023. However, imports declined by 16% in 2024 to USD 1.1 billion, reflecting a combination of factors such as weakening domestic demand, increased local production, and cost-driven shifts in sourcing strategies. This trend signals a maturing domestic timber industry that is increasingly capable of meeting its own needs, while also indicating a strategic pivot toward more localised supply chains to mitigate global market volatility.

The main imported timber products in 2024 were furniture and parts thereof (USD 271.1 million), sawn timber (USD 248.0 million), plywood (USD 118.1 million), and veneers (USD 103.9 million). These four categories alone accounted for nearly 65% of Türkiye's total timber imports. Meanwhile, products like builders' joinery and carpentry (USD 70.4 million) and chipboard/ particle board (USD 33.2 million) also made up a significant share.

Despite the 2024 contraction, Türkiye remains a major importer of high-value timber products, driven by the needs of its construction, manufacturing, and furniture sectors.

TÜRKIYE: IMPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM WORLD, 2020-2024

USD'000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Furniture & Part thereof	125,148	153,140	207,639	257,483	271,071
Sawntimber	111,173	109,811	175,743	277,252	247,947
Plywood	59,222	71,355	119,467	204,508	118,050
Veneer	38,227	46,633	72,570	96,882	103,853
Builders' joinery and carpentry	22,455	30,560	56,837	84,546	70,357
Chipboard/ Particle board	27,126	27,184	19,146	52,352	33,248
Mouldings	7,289	11,400	21,727	37,049	29,251
Log	21,021	29,846	50,244	42,429	24,161
Fibreboard	38,381	26,679	77,006	38,338	19,338
Wooden frames	1,644	1,577	1,937	2,135	2,846
Others	117,528	130,061	190,170	259,171	219,869
Total	569,214	638,246	992,486	1,352,145	1,139,991

Source: ITC Stats

In 2024, Italy was Türkiye's largest supplier of furniture (HS9403), with imports valued at USD 63.1 million. This was followed by China (USD 42.4 million), Poland (USD 29.6 million), and Germany (USD 28.8 million). Malaysia ranked 7th, supplying USD 9.1 million worth of furniture to Türkiye, out of a total of 77 countries. Overall, Türkiye's furniture imports amounted to USD 271.1 million in 2024 from USD 257.5 million in 2023.

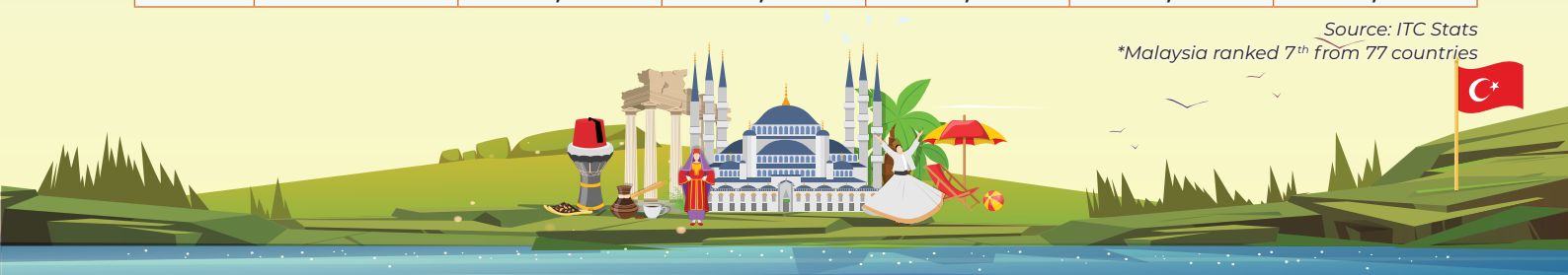
TÜRKIYE: IMPORT OF FURNITURE & PART THEREOF (HS 9403), 2020-2024

USD'000

Rank	Exporters	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Italy	32,029	38,443	42,066	60,902	63,087
2	China	19,956	22,207	28,297	31,441	42,433
3	Poland	17,814	18,013	26,568	31,100	29,628
4	Germany	12,480	17,026	25,436	31,804	28,835
5	Lithuania	6,263	8,443	18,328	18,060	17,737
6	Spain	1,597	6,179	4,640	9,783	17,480
7	Malaysia	2,632	5,234	3,288	2,787	9,109
8	Romania	2,376	2,869	3,291	5,951	7,457
9	Sweden	3,438	2,892	5,596	6,260	5,644
10	Indonesia	1,353	2,618	3,765	3,296	4,209
	Others	25,206	29,215	46,364	56,095	45,449
	TOTAL	125,148	153,140	207,639	257,483	271,071

Source: ITC Stats

*Malaysia ranked 7th from 77 countries





Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to Türkiye

Türkiye has emerged as a growing market for Malaysian timber and timber products, although export volumes have fluctuated significantly over the years; in 2024 Malaysia's exports to Türkiye amounted to RM53.3 million, a decrease of 41% compared to RM90.0 million in 2023. The highest export value was recorded in 2023, mainly due to a sharp rise in plywood exports, which peaked at RM65.6 million that year. In 2024, plywood exports dropped to RM29.3 million, but it remained the leading product exported to Türkiye. This was followed by wooden furniture (RM15.8 million) and chipboard/particleboard (RM3.6 million). Despite the overall decline, Türkiye continues to be an important market for Malaysian timber products, influenced by factors such as high construction demand. The Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) reported that the construction sector grew by a strong 9.2% in the third quarter of 2024, which demonstrates robust activity in the industry. Furthermore, projections from various sources, including GlobalData, anticipate continued real growth for the Turkish construction industry, with an expected increase of 4.2% in 2025. This sustained growth, driven by public and private investments in both infrastructure and housing, underpins the consistent need for imported materials like Malaysian timber.

MALAYSIA: EXPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS TO TÜRKIYE, 2020-2024

Value: RM'000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Plywood	293	160	1,090	65,622	29,267
Wooden Furniture	7,876	3,949	9,202	8,970	15,777
Chipboard/Particleboard	428	0	0	10,225	3,627
Mouldings	604	652	930	1,106	871
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	325	1,180	1,968	1,567	805
Fibreboard	499	328	329	240	235
Sawntimber	486	164	623	560	91
Others	9,539	1,992	614	1,741	2,583
Total	20,049	8,426	14,754	90,030	53,257

Source: MTIB & DOSM



Malaysia's Import of Timber and Timber Products from Türkiye

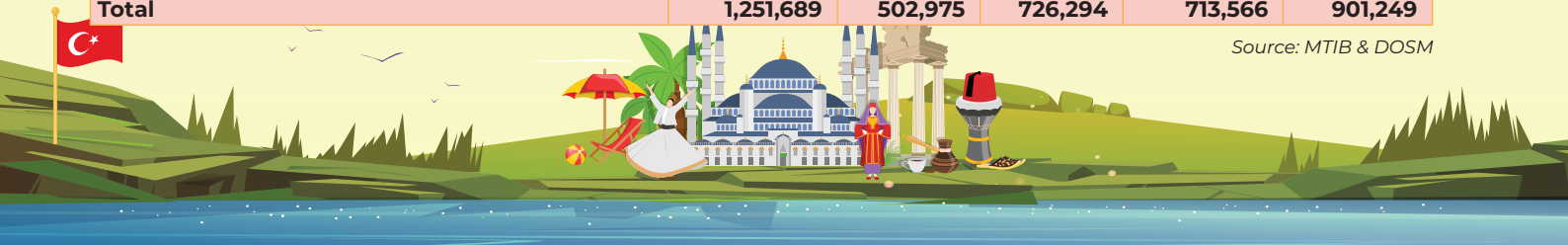
Malaysia's import of timber and timber products from Türkiye showed a significant increase of 26%, rising from RM713,566 in 2023 to RM901,249 in 2024. This growth was mainly driven by increased imports of wooden furniture, which rose to RM749,038 in 2024. Other contributing products included chipboard/particleboard (RM12,231), builders' joinery and carpentry (RM9,001), sawn timber (RM2,194), plywood (RM1,861), and logs (RM1,284). Meanwhile no fibreboard, mouldings, or veneer were imported in 2024. Türkiye continued to source various other timber products including decorative items, packing materials, and other miscellaneous wood-based components.

MALAYSIA: IMPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM TÜRKIYE, 2020-2024

Value: RM

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden Furniture	174,944	102,330	408,404	605,636	749,038
Chipboard/Particleboard	0	0	0	0	12,231
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	107,057	0	38,629	3,475	9,001
Sawntimber	0	205,497	0	0	2,194
Plywood	198,078	0	0	0	1,861
Logs	0	0	5,999	0	1,284
Fibreboard	154,197	70,668	215,828	2,672	0
Mouldings	11,043	10,500	0	1,352	0
Veneer	487,953	0	0	0	0
Other Products	118,417	113,980	57,434	100,431	125,640
Total	1,251,689	502,975	726,294	713,566	901,249

Source: MTIB & DOSM





Türkiye Tariff Rates

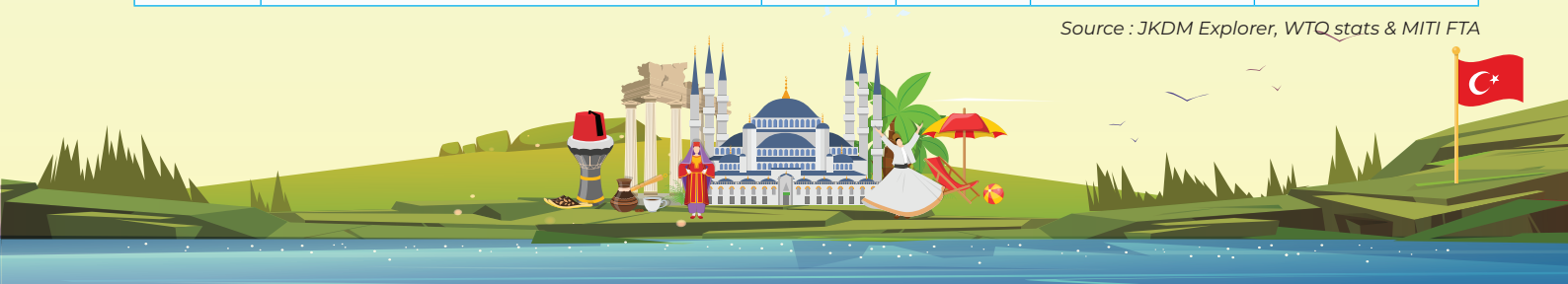
Türkiye's Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) import duties on timber and timber products present a varied landscape, with rates ranging from 0% to 35%, depending on the category. Among the most heavily taxed items are plywood (HS4412), which faces duties between 25% and 35%, and wooden furniture (HS9403), with rates typically between 17.7% and 32.7%. Additionally, wooden tools and handles (HS4417) are subject to a 20% duty, while fibreboard (HS4411) and particleboard (HS4410) are taxed at 7%, and wooden tableware and kitchenware (HS4419) can incur duties of up to 15%. These varied duties naturally pose challenges for exporters from countries without preferential trade agreements with Türkiye.

Malaysia, however, enjoys a significant advantage. Under the Malaysia-Turkey Free Trade Agreement (MTFTA), which commenced in 2015, Malaysian exporters benefit from full duty-free access for all timber and timber product categories covered by the agreement. This preferential treatment provides a strong competitive edge, especially for products like plywood and wooden furniture that would otherwise be subject to high MFN tariffs. With reciprocal tariff elimination in place, both countries are poised to benefit from strengthened trade ties, deeper integration of their value chains, and enhanced industrial collaboration. This includes areas such as furniture manufacturing, interior fittings, and sustainable wood product development. Malaysian exporters are strongly encouraged to fully leverage this duty-free access to expand their presence in key segments like premium and customised furniture, engineered wood, and eco-certified timber products.

TÜRKİYE: TARIFF RATES UNDER MFN AND MTFTA (2025)

HS CODE	PRODUCTS	MFN %		Malaysia - Türkiye Free Trade Agreement (MTFTA) (2025 %)	
		Malaysia	Türkiye	Malaysia: Tariff Elimination Schedule	Türkiye: Tariff Elimination Schedule
4401	Fuel Wood	20	0	0	0
4402	Wood Charcoal	20	0	0	0
4403	Logs	0	0	0	0
4404	Hoopwood, Split polis, Piles	10-20	0	0	0
4405	Wood wool; Wood flour	5-20	0	0	0
4406	Railway sleepers	5	0	0	0
4407	Sawntimber	0	0-2.5	0	0
4408	Veneer	0	0-6	0	0
4409	Mouldings	0	0	0	0
4410	Chipboard/Particleboard	20	7	0	0
4411	Fibreboard	20	7	0	0
4412	Plywood	25-35	26-30	0	0
4413	Metalised wood or other densified wood	20	0	0	0
4414	Wooden Frame	0	0-2.5	0	0
4415	Packing cases	20	3-4	0	0
4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	20	0	0	0
4417	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	20	20	0	0
4418	Builders Joinery & Carpentry	5-20	0-3	0	0
4419	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	20	0-15	0	0
4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	0-20	0-4	0	0
4421	Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	0.2	0-15	0	0
9401	Seat and parts thereof	0-30	1.7-30	0	0
9403	Wooden Furniture	0	17.7-32.7	0	0

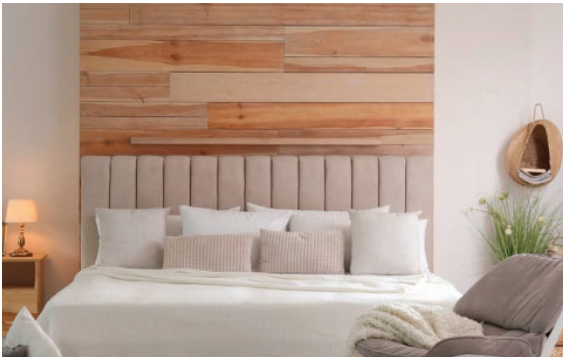
Source : JKDM Explorer, WTQ stats & MITI FTA





Challenges and Prospects

The wood industry in Türkiye presents a blend of promising prospects and critical challenges. With forest coverage spanning approximately 30% of its land area, Türkiye benefits from a substantial timber resource base, primarily managed by the General Directorate of Forestry (OGM). Urbanisation, rising disposable incomes, and robust housing development have significantly stimulated domestic demand, particularly for wood-based panels and furniture. In 2023, the Turkish furniture market was valued at USD 7 billion and was projected to grow steadily. Strategically located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Türkiye enjoys advantageous access to key regional markets, especially both the Middle East and the European Union.



Türkiye Furniture for hotels blog
(Source: Furniture for hotels)



Victoria style European Classy wood bedset - Turkish bedroom furniture
(source: Feroz Sons Furniture Interiors)

The construction sector has emerged as a vital driver of growth for the wood and furniture industries. According to the Association of Turkish Construction Material Producers (İMSAD), the construction industry expanded by 7.3% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2025—marking its tenth consecutive quarter of growth—surpassing the national GDP growth of 2%. This expansion is largely attributed to ongoing reconstruction in earthquake-affected areas,

urban transformation, and infrastructure development. Construction expenditures rose nominally by 41.8% in Q1 2025 to 1.85 trillion Turkish Liras, or 6.9% in real terms. The sector's share of GDP increased from 5.5% to 6.2%. Real estate activities also gained momentum, growing 2.4% year-on-year in Q1 2025, up from 1.3% in the previous quarter. Indicators point to continued optimism, with İMSAD reporting a 3.2-point rise in the index for existing construction activity and a 3.6-point increase in business confidence among construction firms in May 2025. New construction orders also rose by 1.9 points.

The housing market reflected this upward trajectory, with home sales rising by 56.6% year-on-year in April 2025 to surpass 118,000 units. This followed growth of 5.1% in March, 39.7% in January, and 20.1% in February. Cumulatively, from January to April 2025, more than 454,000 homes were sold, marking a 27.9% increase compared to the same period in 2024. This surge in construction and housing is expected to boost demand for timber, furniture, and wood-based panels, further strengthening the sector.

“However, despite Türkiye’s Forest resources, the domestic supply of high-quality roundwood remains insufficient, prompting reliance on imports and exposing the industry to raw material price fluctuations. The sector is still fragmented, with many small-scale operators using outdated technologies, limiting productivity and innovation. Türkiye’s location within the Mediterranean climate zone also heightens its vulnerability to forest fires, posing risks to wood supply. Economic challenges, including high inflation and exchange rate volatility, continue to affect consumer confidence and investment decisions. Rural areas face youth migration and high cost of modern equipment, making it difficult to sustain forest-based livelihoods. Additionally, the presence of a large informal sector hampers accurate data collection and policy formulation.”

However, anti-dumping measures play a crucial role in safeguarding the Turkish wood industry. Türkiye is among the most active users of anti-dumping instruments globally, with over 180 measures in force, several of which target timber-related imports such as wood panels, fibreboards, and furniture. These measures help protect local producers from unfair competition, stabilize domestic prices, and preserve employment. While they may raise input costs in cases where domestic supply is lacking, such trade remedies provide a buffer that supports the industry’s long-



term development and modernisation. Türkiye's free trade agreements, including with the EU and EFTA, continue to allow such protective measures within the broader trade framework.

Thus, Malaysian exporters should take note of the protective measures implemented by Türkiye. For the record, Malaysian companies have been charged with an anti-dumping duty of USD140/m³ for plywood exports with a thickness of less than 6mm, effective for five years starting from February 2025. This duty applies to all but three companies that cooperated in the investigations.



Wooden buildings, particularly traditional timber-framed structures, are a significant part of Türkiye's architectural heritage, although their usage has declined in recent times. Wood was a primary building material in Türkiye for centuries, especially in rural areas and in the Black Sea region and can still be seen in many traditional Turkish buildings.
(source: dreamstime.com)

Looking forward, sustainability and innovation will be central to the industry's resilience and competitiveness. Türkiye is placing greater emphasis on forest certification schemes like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to meet international market standards and promote responsible forest management. The government is also prioritising the expansion of industrial plantations to secure future wood supply. Industry 4.0 technologies—such as smart manufacturing systems, IoT integration, and data analytics—are being adopted to improve efficiency, timber traceability, and improved product quality. The sector is also moving toward higher-value products, including engineered wood, customised furniture, and eco-certified timber products, to meet evolving consumer preferences and improve profit margins. These trends, along with a strong domestic market, growing exports, and strategic use of trade agreements, position Türkiye to become a regional leader in sustainable and value-added wood product manufacturing.



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INDONESIA



INDUSTRY NEEDS MACHINERY UPGRADES



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

“Chandra also stressed the importance of Indonesian industry players not just hosting exhibitions but also actively participating in international events. He urged the Indonesian government to provide subsidies or support for local companies to showcase their products on the global stage, similar to the support offered by other countries. He added Indonesian wood product manufacturers are urging the government to lower import duties on production machines.”

According to Chandra, the industry faces challenges due to limited technological utilization while other countries are using more efficient, modern machinery. Chandra specifically requested a 20% reduction in import duties for the latest generation of production machines. He stressed that modernizing production machinery is essential for the woodworking industry to be more competitive in international markets.

www.medcom.id, 18 June 2025

VIETNAM



VIET NAM'S WOOD INDUSTRY IN 2025 - NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES

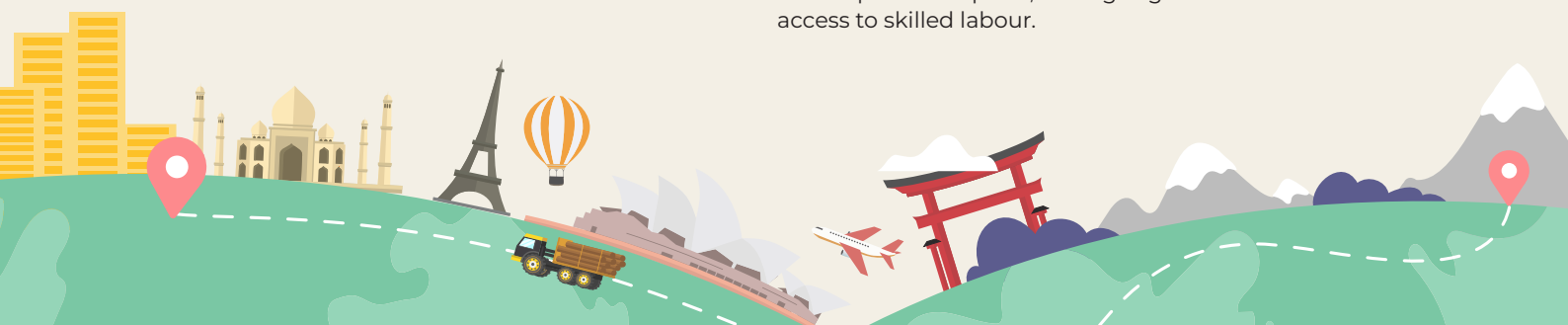


Viet Nam's wood industry is a vital component of the nation's economy, consistently ranking among the top exporters. The sector is evolving, focusing on sustainable practices and value-added products, while also navigating challenges such as trade tensions and tariffs. With a commitment to sustainability and expanding capabilities, Viet Nam's wood industry is poised for continued growth and innovation in the years to come.

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

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

Much of this investment has been focused on upgrading digital machinery and installing facilities powered by clean energy. Viet Nam's manufacturing is regionally distributed, with the southeastern provinces, including Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong and Dong Nai, forming the industrial backbone. These areas benefit from proximity to Cat Lai and Cai Mep-Thi Vai ports, strong logistics infrastructure and access to skilled labour.



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

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

To counteract this, the government has prioritized: strengthening traceability systems through blockchain-based verification; expanding timber imports from the US, totaling USD316.36 million in 2024, a 33% increase from 2023, to ensure clear product origin; and negotiations with U.S. officials to prevent further escalation, particularly concerning compliance with the Lacey Act and antidumping regulations.

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

CHINA



CHINA'S IMPORTS OF LOGS AND SAWN TIMBER WERE 5.99 MILLION CUBIC METRES



According to the latest data, the import volume of logs and sawn timber in China was 5.99 million cubic meters in May 2025, with year-on-year growth remaining at the same level; From January to May, the import volume of Chinese logs and sawn timber totaled 24.146 million cubic meters, a year-on-year decrease of 13.3%.

In terms of amount, the import value of Chinese logs and sawn timber in May 2025 was 125.5 million US dollars, with a year-on-year growth of the same level; From January to May, the import of Chinese logs and sawntimber was 48.937 billion US dollars, a year-on-year decrease of 15.2%.

globalwood.org, 3 June 2025

JAPAN



ITTO HIGHLIGHTS PROMISE OF LESSER-USED TIMBER, WOOD PROTECTION AMID GLOBAL TRADE TURBULENCE



Lesser-used tropical timber species are presented as an opportunity for tropical countries to expand their production and trade of sustainable timber and wood products to meet market demand. Research on the durability of timber species and products supports producers in diversifying the applications of tropical wood.

These were among the messages delivered by ITTO's Director of Trade and Industry, Dr Mohammed Nurudeen Iddrisu, in a keynote speech at the IRG56 conference in Yokohama, Japan, on 22–26 June 2025.

The conference was organized by the International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRG-WP), a network of scientists and companies working on extend the life of wood products against threats such as decay, pests and fire.

In a presentation titled “Wood Protection in the Tropics: A Necessity in the Face of Climate Change and Rising Demand for Wood Products Consumption”, Dr Iddrisu first gave the expert audience an overview of ITTO and the current situation facing tropical forests and the tropical timber industry.

Tropical forests account for about 45% of all forests on Earth, occupying a total of 1.83 billion hectares. Tropical forests provide livelihoods for about 1.6 billion people while playing critical roles in carbon sequestration, carbon storage and biodiversity conservation. Yet a loss of about 10 million hectares per year persists, Dr Iddrisu pointed out, highlighting the need for sustainable forest management (SFM).



The market for tropical timber has grown strongly, mainly driven by demand from sectors such as construction in developed countries, but also by the emergence of China and the growth of the middle class in developing countries.

While countries such as Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands stand out as exporters of tropical logs, Dr Iddrisu highlighted how China, Viet Nam and others have built multi-billion-dollar processing industries that add value to tropical timber exports.

“Viet Nam is a model,” Dr Iddrisu said. “With value addition, you are exporting less volume, but you are getting more value. That means you can provide goods and services for your people and expand your economy.”

Turning to current challenges, he highlighted regulations designed to prevent the import of illegally or unsustainably produced timber into developed markets, especially those in the European Union.

While Indonesia, a major player in the tropical timber trade issued the first FLEGT-licensed timber in November 2016, countries like Ghana have been working for years on timber legality and tracking systems to secure their FLEGT license to export timber to the European Union. The new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) has somewhat “shifted the goalposts and will pose a challenge for the African continent,” he noted.

“Today’s intensified geopolitics are clouding the outlook for the global tropical timber trade. On the one hand, there is unrest and ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe and the Middle East; on the other, protectionist trade policies, which place tariffs on many imports into critical markets pose trade problems for many ITTO member countries.”

“Many ITTO producer members are trying to see what they can do to be able to stay afloat, continue to produce, export, generate income, and meet the needs of their forests and people,” Dr Iddrisu said.

The troubled housing construction market in China, the world’s biggest importer of tropical hardwood, is another worry for exporters.

To help members meet these challenges, he explained that ITTO develops policy guidelines to encourage SFM and sustainable tropical timber industries and has funded more than 1,200 projects and activities, many in the field, to help them implement related policies and practices.

The Organization also collates and disseminates data to inform on trade and policies on tropical timber and supports members through capacity-building in sustainable tropical forestry and trade.

Dr Iddrisu pointed out that only a fraction of the tree species found in highly diverse tropical forests are currently exported as timber, and that lesser-used species have the potential to add to production, supporting species diversification and without compromising sustainability.

He suggested that the expertise of the IRG-WP in investigating the characteristics of different types of wood, enhancing its protection, and thus promoting the efficient use of timber, could support SFM.

www.itto.int, 24 June 2025



MANUFACTURING EMERGING AS ATTRACTIVE SECTOR FOR INVESTORS



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

“The report also highlights that over the past three decades its core sectors, manufacturing, agriculture and services have grown in step with demographic shifts and structural changes and will see demand grow as the economy advances.”

The latest report from S&P Global comes after India’s manufacturing sector expanded at its fastest pace in 10 months in April, driven by strong demand and a sharp rise in output. “An analysis of S&P Global Market Intelligence’s index over time indicates that India has made notable progress in enhancing its competitiveness and making its manufacturing sector more attractive to investors” the report said.

www.itto.int, 26 June 2025



ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT THREATENS TIMBER TRADE ROUTES IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The ongoing Israel-Iran conflict has put a spotlight not only on global energy supplies but also on the critical timber trade passing through the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. While crude and refined oil dominate headlines, the timber industry worldwide faces significant risks from potential disruptions in this key maritime corridor.

The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) recently warned that escalating tensions could severely impact shipping lanes through the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic chokepoint where roughly one third of global seaborne crude oil and 15% of refined products transit. This route is also essential for timber shipments destined for the rapidly growing Middle East and North African (MENA) markets.

Global timber exporters have increasingly targeted MENA as a vital growth region. However, missile attacks and military escalations threaten to stall this momentum. "If Iranian attacks on shipping escalate, we expect a sharp decline in vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz, severely limiting timber imports into the region," said Jakob Larsen, BIMCO's Chief Safety & Security Officer.

U.S. manufacturers have already felt the strain. Mike Cardin, chief manager of Cardin Forest Products in Tennessee, notes a marked reduction in timber orders from Middle Eastern buyers, attributing the slowdown both to geopolitical risks and tariff uncertainties. "If tensions continue rising, demand from the Middle East could evaporate entirely for an unpredictable length of time," Cardin warned.

“The potential fallout extends beyond the U.S. China, Europe, Canada, and Russia — all major timber suppliers — depend on stable shipping channels to reach Middle Eastern ports. The region's booming construction and infrastructure sectors fuel robust demand for softwood, hardwood, and processed wood products. Disrupted supply lines risk causing shortages, driving up costs, and shifting global trade patterns.”

Complicating matters, U.S. timber exports face additional pressure from President Trump's proposed tariffs on timber imports, which have already dampened foreign buyers' confidence. Cardin says uncertainty around these tariffs has pushed many customers to halt purchases pending clarity, further squeezing exporters who rely on international markets.

Analysts warn that combined geopolitical tensions and trade policy uncertainty could hinder global timber flows for months or longer. "The Middle East and North Africa represent a key frontier for timber demand growth," noted a market analyst. "Any disruption in shipping or trade relations will ripple across the global supply chain, forcing producers and buyers alike to rethink their strategies."

As the conflict unfolds, global timber traders and regional buyers watch closely, hoping for stability in the Strait of Hormuz — a vital artery for more than just oil, but also for timber goods crucial to development across the MENA region.

www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com, 27 June 2025

FINLAND

FINLAND INCREASES INDUSTRIAL ROUNDWOOD HARVEST 16%



Finland harvests 3.7 million cubic meters of roundwood for industrial use in May, a 16% increase from May last year and 2% below the five-year average, according to the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke).

From January to May, industrial roundwood removals reached 27.2 million m³, 8% more than in the same period a year earlier.

In May, sawlog removals totaled 1.8 million cubic meters and pulpwood removals 1.9 million m³.

Between January and May, log removals amounted to 11.368 million cubic meters, up 5% year-on-year: pine logs 5.085 million m³ (+3%), spruce logs 5.771 million m³ (+8%) and hardwood logs 0.512 million m³ (+4%).

Pulpwood removals total 15.868 million m³ in January–May, 10% above last year's volume: pine pulpwood 6.959 million cubic meters (+6%), spruce pulpwood 4.821 million m³ (+17%) and hardwood pulpwood 4.088 million m³ (+8%).

Industrial roundwood removals from non-industrial private forests reached 2.8 million cubic meters in May, up 22% year-on-year, while removals from forest industry companies' and state-owned forests totaled 0.8 million cubic meters, down 1%.

Energy wood removals reached 0.6 million cubic meters in May, of which 39% were delimbed stems and whole trees. From January to May, energy wood harvests totaled of 2.9 million cubic meters.

www.fordaq.com, 26 June 2025



BRAZIL

COMMERCIAL STRATEGIES FOR THE FURNITURE SECTOR



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

Sales through online marketplaces have consolidated as a strategic channel due to their broad reach and logistical infrastructure but they require competitive pricing, good customer service and operational efficiency. At the same time e-commerce platforms are gaining ground growing through investments in technology, 3D product visualizations and personalized customer service channels which assist in building customer loyalty.

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

“ The trend toward customization and on-demand production driven by the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for layout simulations and product personalization is also reshaping both the production and sales chains. Companies investing in an omni-channel model, where customers move seamlessly between physical and digital environments, are achieving results. ”

This approach allows, for instance, a consumer to view a product in-store, complete the purchase online and have the furniture delivered at home with real-time tracking. Furthermore, behavioral and preference data analysis has also become an essential tool for identifying the most strategic sales channels. By collecting and interpreting browsing information, purchase history and social media interactions, companies can offer products better aligned with customer expectations and run more effective marketing campaigns.

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

www.moveisdevalor.com.br, 2 June 2025

UNITED STATES

U.S. HOME PRICES REACH RECORD HIGH



The median price for home sales in the U.S. has reached a new all-time high, hitting USD 396,500 for the four weeks ending June 15, according to a recent report by Redfin, the technology-driven real estate brokerage. This marks a 1% increase compared to the same period last year.

Despite this record sale price, the housing market shows signs of cooling. Prices are not fully reflecting the current surplus of sellers over buyers. Traditionally, home prices peak in early summer months like June and July, and while prices continue to grow, the pace has slowed compared to earlier in the year — down from approximately 5% growth at the start of 2025 to the current 1%.

“ A notable feature of the current market is that the median sale price remains about USD 26,000 (6%) lower than the median asking price of USD 422,238. This contrasts with trends in 2021 and 2022 when sale prices typically exceeded asking prices due to a seller's market. The current buyer-favorable market allows for greater price negotiations, as the larger pool of sellers drives competition. ”

New home listings have increased by 4.4% year over year, and total listings have surged 14.5%, reflecting the growing supply. Conversely, pending sales are down 1.5% year over year, and mortgage-purchase applications have fallen 3% in the past week, indicating softer demand.



Economic uncertainty and high housing costs have contributed to this weakened homebuying demand this spring. The median monthly housing payment is close to its own record high, remaining just USD 53 below the all-time peak.

Kelly Connally, a Redfin Premier agent in Tulsa, Oklahoma, advises sellers to adopt strategic pricing in this environment. "Homes that are even slightly overpriced risk sitting on the market longer and inviting price negotiations," she explains. She also stresses the importance of maintaining home condition and being prepared for inspection-related repairs. "Exceptions are homes in prime locations and in excellent condition, which continue to sell at or above asking price.

Looking ahead, experts expect the imbalance between supply and demand will likely cause a decline in home-sale prices nationwide by the end of 2025.

www.fordaq.com, 25 June 2025

GHANA



FIVE WOOD PRODUCTS DOMINATE EXPORTS IN Q1 2025



According to the report published by the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD), Ghana exported 17 different wood-based products during the first three months of 2025. The total volume exported reached 57,844 m³, valued at EUR 27.50 million. These figures represent a decline of 10% in volume and 6% in value compared to the same period in 2024.

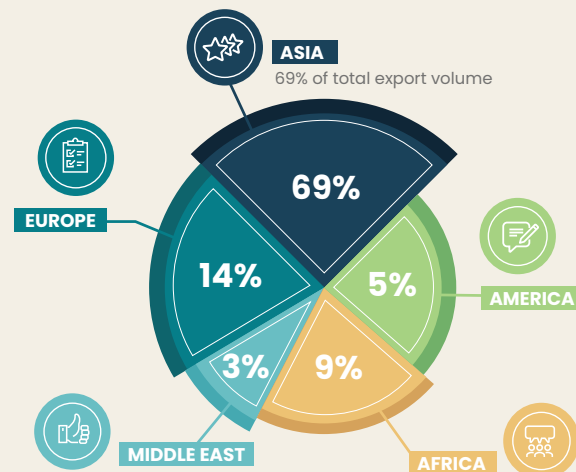
“The five main exported products alone accounted for 93% of total export volume in Q1 2025, or 53,774 m³. These were air-dried sawnwood (58%), kiln-dried sawnwood (13%), billets (12%), plywood destined for the regional market (6%), and rotary veneer (3%). During the same period in 2024, these products represented 55,225 m³, or 86% of total exports.”

Significant increase in billet exports

Billet exports recorded a sharp increase, rising from 4,038 m³ (EUR 1.21 million) in Q1 2024 to 7,062 m³ (EUR 2.18 million) in 2025, a 75% increase in volume. In contrast, the remaining four major products all experienced declines in export volumes.

Main export markets

In the first quarter of 2025, Ghana's wood products were exported to the following key geographic markets:



In terms of revenue, these markets generated a total of EUR 27.50 million in 2025, compared to EUR 29.33 million during the same period in 2024.

The Asian market accounted for 58% of total revenue (EUR 15.91 million) in 2025, up from 54% (EUR 15.73 million) in 2024. The European market remained stable, contributing 20% of total earnings in both years.

However, earnings from exports to America, Africa, and the Middle East declined in Q1 2025 compared to Q1 2024. Regional African markets ranked fourth in terms of revenue with EUR 2.22 million. Products exported to African destinations included plywood, kiln-dried and air-dried sawnwood, rotary veneer, sliced veneer, and poles.

www.fordaq.com, 26 June 2025

GLOBAL WOOD MARKETS IN FLUX: HIGH LOG PRICES SQUEEZE SAWMILLS AND SHIFTING TRADE ROUTES DEFINE MID-2025

The global wood industry is cautiously eyeing stabilization in mid-2025, with many companies indicating that market conditions have likely reached their lowest point. Insights gathered by Global Wood Markets Info (GWMI) through recent conversations with industry players reveal a sector strategically adjusting to current realities.





Companies are directing capital primarily towards operational improvements rather than outright expansion. Industry players consulted by GWMI project a planned 13% increase in investment volume for 2025. A strong majority of these investments, 88%, are specifically targeting internal efficiency projects. This focus includes energy production and storage, equipment upgrades to more efficient models, and improved risk management. While these investments are notable, overall capital flow into the sector since the pandemic remains modest, according to industry sentiment. This investment trend contrasts with the situation in Europe generally, where “very few orders for machinery” are currently reported. However, some areas like South America are seen as a “bright spot” for sawmilling machinery companies, with numerous factory upgrades and new constructions underway in Brazil and Argentina.

However, market health varies significantly by region:

EUROPE

Demand remains generally low in much of Europe. Companies in Germany and France report difficult conditions, with German players expecting recovery only in late 2026 and noting the closure of many small sawmills. The Netherlands market is described as “more difficult” and not yet fully stabilized post-COVID. In contrast, Spain and Portugal show stronger market activity, driven by robust economies and active construction sectors, leading to significant purchasing interest. A critical concern across the continent is the surging price of logs. In Ukraine, raw material prices for logs are “very high” and reportedly state-controlled, making competitive export to the EU unfeasible. Scandinavia has also seen log prices reach up to €100 per cubic meter, squeezing sawmill margins as finished lumber prices remain persistently low. French oak log exporters, facing a challenging Chinese market, are actively seeking new destinations, including Vietnam.

BALTIC STATES' PIVOT TO ASIA

This region faces a “lack of raw material,” specifically round wood and lumber for secondary processing, due to high local harvesting costs. Companies are forced to import from Scandinavia (Finland, Sweden) and even from Germany or Poland. A significant trend observed is the increasing export to Asia (including Australia and Japan) rather than continental Europe. This shift is primarily driven by logistics: high European truck transport costs make sea freight to Asia significantly cheaper, with containers from Poland to China costing around \$300-\$400. This efficiency encourages Baltic companies to leverage readily available containers in their regions. Main exports from the Baltics include pallet lumber, dry lumber, wooden panels, and wooden houses.

ASIA

China's domestic and export markets are slow due to halted housing construction. Importers report “a lot of stock” at ports that is “not able to move,” leading to reduced new purchases. Chinese importers are predominantly sourcing European timber species like beech, spruce, and birch, with less activity in North American species compared to pre-COVID levels. While some Chinese exporters explore the Middle East, India, despite its “pretty strong” domestic market, presents challenges for suppliers due to “very low margin” and difficult negotiations. Malaysia's industry is experiencing disruptions, with local rules restricting timber exports and leading to sawmill closures.

THE AMERICAS

South America, particularly Brazil, presents a more optimistic outlook. Brazilian pine is gaining competitiveness in European and Middle Eastern markets, diversifying its traditional reliance on the U.S. Companies are investing in factory upgrades, and sectors like panels, packaging materials, and decking wood (e.g., Ipe, Cumaru) are performing well, though demand for moldings remains low. In contrast, the U.S. hardwood market faces severe challenges. Volumes historically destined for Asia are now saturating the domestic market due to “confusion surrounding customs” and other issues with China and other Asian markets. This has driven domestic prices down and led to bankruptcies, prompting U.S. companies, especially red oak exporters, to seek buyers globally. Some even view Germany as a more favorable market than the U.S. itself for these products.



MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

This region demonstrates robust demand, particularly for whitewood (comprising 90% of requests), often for lower quality grades at competitive prices. Morocco is experiencing a significant construction boom, spurred by preparations for the upcoming World Cup, driving demand for construction wood and softwood. The sector benefits from state subsidies, and the Port of Tanger Med, now a major global logistics hub, positions Morocco as a key target for South American wood exporters. Additionally, some North African countries are developing pellet production, importing European logs to enhance competitiveness with European producers.

Industry Challenges

Companies consulted by GWMI highlighted several persistent challenges:



Raw material scarcity & high prices

High log prices in regions like Ukraine and Scandinavia are eroding sawmill profitability. This is frequently cited by companies as a primary concern.



Logistics costs

High European land transport costs are reshaping trade routes.



Finished product pricing

Ensuring competitive product prices is a dominant concern for companies, reflecting the challenge of high input costs versus low demand for finished goods.



Workforce shortages

Many companies report a significant shortage of machine operators, with recruitment complicated by a lack of necessary qualifications. Wage growth (4%) and headcount growth (3%) are modest.



Geopolitical and regulatory uncertainty

Discussions around the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and trade tariffs are prominent for companies like those in Poland. The cessation of log imports from Russia and Belarus by Baltic producers, while a political decision, has exacerbated raw material shortages.



Market environment

Companies express a need for stable and transparent economic policies from the state to encourage investment, and some note that their capabilities are stagnant or declining compared to competitors.

www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com, 16 June 2025



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Singapore appoints new chief executive of Maritime and Port Authority

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) is getting a new chief executive in June. Ang Wee Keong, the assistant chief executive (international) of the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), has been named chief executive-designate from May 1 to June 15.

He will relinquish his current position at IMDA and take over from Teo Eng Dih, who will take on the role of deputy secretary (special duties) at the Ministry of Transport.

Ang heads international strategy, engagement and collaboration at IMDA, overseeing multilateral negotiations and bilateral partnerships in the digital domain.

He managed the expansion of Singapore's digital economy alliances, as well as regional engagement through platforms

such as the Asean Digital Ministers' Meeting, the Forum of Small States, and Asia Tech x Singapore.

He also oversaw the development of forward-thinking laws and regulations to support the expansion of Singapore's digital economy, including the future Digital Infrastructure Act. Ang will also become a member of the MPA board, replacing Teo.

MPA last had a change at the top in September 2022, when Teo succeeded Quah Ley Hoon, who headed up the driving force behind Singapore's maritime and port development for nearly four years.

MaritimeGateway_2 May 2025



US and China agree to slash tariffs

In a significant curtailment of the trade war between the world's two largest economies, the United States and China have agreed to considerably slash tariffs for the next 90 days.

As part of the deal reached in Geneva over the weekend, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said both countries would lower their reciprocal tariffs by 115%, meaning the US will lower tariffs on Chinese goods to 30% and China will reduce duties on US imports to 10%. The measures should kick in by May 14.

News on rolling back tariffs moved the global stock market upwards, with S&P 500 futures up by around 3% and the US dollar rallying to a one-month high. "We want more balanced trade, and I think both sides are committed to achieving that," Scott Bessent, US Treasury secretary, said at a briefing in Geneva on Monday, adding that neither side wants a decoupling.

The two sides have been involved in a growing trade battle since early April, when Trump put more tariffs on Chinese goods, prompting reciprocal action from Beijing. While the agreement is only the first step towards a more permanent accord, it does signal a reduction in economic tensions between the two economic titans.

In a joint statement, both parties stated that an agreement had been reached to establish a trade consultation mechanism aimed at preventing a tariff war. "These discussions may be conducted alternately in China and the United States, or a third country upon agreement of the Parties. As required, the two sides may conduct working-level consultations on relevant economic and trade issues," according to the joint statement.

Bessent was speaking alongside US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, who said, "It's important to understand how quickly we were able to come to an agreement, which reflects that perhaps the differences were not so large as maybe thought."

"The US has a massive \$1.2trn trade deficit, so the president declared a national emergency and imposed tariffs, and we're confident that the deal we struck with our Chinese partners will help us to work toward resolving that national emergency," Greer added. Pictured below, the near-empty port of Seattle, one of many US west coast ports that have reported a drastic drop in ship arrivals in recent days.

Splash247_12 May 2025

Japan unveils ports decarbonisation plan

Japan's Ports and Harbours Bureau at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) has plans to achieve carbon net zero by 2050 at all Japanese ports via a new Carbon Neutral Ports (CNP) initiative backed by a CNP certification process.

The certification process will evaluate each terminal's decarbonisation efforts. Critically, this assessment will be on a per-terminal rather than a per-port basis.

A wide variety of stratagems will be evaluated, including low-emission handling equipment and LED lighting on the terminal operation side and efforts concerning carriers, such as zero-emission vessel fuels and truck appointment systems.

In addition, the results of the evaluation process will be visible to all port users, as they too are encouraged to contribute to the carbon-zero target by 2050.

Splash247_20 May 2025



World's largest port launches three European green corridor projects

The port of Ningbo-Zhoushan in China, the world's largest port in terms of cargo throughput, has announced three initiatives it has undertaken with three European ports — Hamburg and Wilhelmshaven in Germany, and Valencia in Spain — to create green shipping corridors. The ports involved will work with shipping lines, cargo owners, energy providers, research institutions and other stakeholders to promote zero-carbon technology, clean fuels and smart management systems on designated routes.

Key actions include constructing and utilising shore power infrastructure, optimising freight distribution networks, adopting renewable energy solutions and scaling up clean fuel bunkering, with the goal of creating corridors with net-zero carbon emissions from starting port to terminal port.

As of 2024, there were 62 green shipping corridor initiatives worldwide, marking a 40% increase from the previous year. These corridors are specific maritime routes where public and private stakeholders collaborate to facilitate zero-emission shipping. While many initiatives are still in the planning or pilot stages, some are advancing toward real-world implementation. Notably, six corridors have progressed from exploration to preparation phases, with feasibility studies, implementation roadmaps, and cost assessments underway.

However, the expansion of these corridors faces challenges, particularly the feasibility wall—the financial and logistical hurdles associated with transitioning to zero-emission fuels. The lack of national policy incentives to bridge the cost gap is now identified as the primary bottleneck, potentially limiting further development of green corridor initiatives.

Splash247_28 May 2025



**Shipments of Timber and Timber Products
Through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, MAY 2025**

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m ³)	% change Apr'25/ May 25
	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change		
Sawn Timber	40,132	19	50	-99	498	61	421	-2	4,217	18	45,317	2
MDF	6,291	-81	0	0	2,505	43	683	23	54	-98	9,533	-35
Mouldings	16,719	87	0	0	1,371	3	1,569	10	426	61	20,085	-3
Plywood	3,786	-79	0	0	153	100	511	51	8,483	-10	12,934	-2
Veneer	213	-94	0	0	29	140	0	0	453	-60	213	-18
Particleboard	11,420	4,312	0	0	11	-88	0	0	2,993	-34	14,424	-31
Total	78,561	386	50	-99	4,568	31	3,185	16	16,625	-26	102,988	-11

LOGS

The timber price in May 2025 remained the same compared to the previous month. Heavy hardwood logs like Chengal were priced at RM3,267/tonne, Balau at RM3,734/tonne, Red Balau at RM2,140/tonne and Merbau at RM2,850/tonne. For medium hardwoods, the price didn't show a significant change compared to the previous month - Keruing (RM1,930/tonne), Kempas (RM1,523/tonne) increased by 1.3% and Kapur (RM1,865/tonne). For light hardwoods, the price showed an increase for certain species compared to the previous month - Red Meranti (RM1,933) increased by 0.9%, Sepetir (RM1,177/tonne) increased by 1.4% and Jelutong (RM1,140/tonne) increased by 7.5%. As for rubberwood, the price decreased slightly to RM204/tonne as compared to last month.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD

As of May 2025, the MDF segment didn't show any change compared to the previous month. The prices for MDF of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm thicknesses were RM12.90/piece, RM23.95/piece, RM31.70/piece and RM37.80/piece respectively.

PLYWOODS

In May 2025, the plywood price segment didn't show any changes compared to the previous month. 4mm sheets were priced at RM19.50/sheet, 6mm sheets at RM26.08/sheet, 9mm sheets at RM38.30/sheet and 12mm sheets, RM48.95/sheet.

SAWNTIMBER

As of May 2025, the price for Chengal sawntimber remained at RM5,508/m³ in the General Market Specification (GMS) grade, meanwhile the price for scantlings remained at RM6,356/m³. This was followed by Balau with its GMS grade, which remained at RM3,055/m³ while the scantlings remained at RM4,590/m³. As for medium hardwood, timber species such as Keruing were priced at RM3,037/m³ for GMS, scantlings at RM2,495/m³ and strips at RM2,425/m³. Meanwhile, for Kempas the GMS grade price was RM2,166/m³, scantlings were RM1,783/m³ and strips, RM2,154/m³. The price of rubberwood sawntimber in May 2025 generally increased to RM1,245/m³ for 1"x1" pieces, RM1,316/m³ for 2"x2" pieces, RM1,400/m³ for 3"x3" pieces and RM1,465/m³ for 4"x4 pieces.

TRADE IN MALAYSIA – MAY 2025

In May 2025, commerce between Sabah and Sarawak with Peninsular Malaysia totalled at 3,609 m³, with a value of RM5.23 million. Sabah remained the top contributor to the trade value for Peninsular, recording a trade value of RM2.71 million (1,474 m³) for plywood, followed by sawntimber (RM0.61million). and veneer (RM0.69 million). Meanwhile for Sarawak, the trade value for Plywood were RM0.87 million.

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA				
RINGGIT MALAYSIA				
MAY 2025				
SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD				
Chengal	3,267	5,508	2,790	6,356
Balau	3,734	3,055	1,718	4,590
Red Balau	2,140	2,754	2,119	2,419
Merbau	2,850	3,754	3,225	3,725
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,122	1,351	1,137	1,255
MEDIUM HARDWOOD				
Keruing	1,930	3,037	2,425	2,495
Kempas	1,523	2,166	1,783	2,154
Kapur	1,865	1,746	1,289	1,685
Mengkulang	1,769	1,201	1,377	1,871
Tualang	1,400	1,924	1,448	1,766
LIGHT HARDWOOD				
Dark Red Meranti	1,765	2,095	1,960	3,337
Red Meranti	1,933	1,777	2,025	2,331
Yellow Meranti	1,627	1,575	1,365	1,801
White Meranti	1,667	2,036	1,801	1,624
Mersawa	1,415	2,013	1,295	2,154
Nyatoh	1,373	1,783	1,819	1,201
Sepetir	1,193	1,819	1,660	1,295
Jelutong	1,225	2,119	1,589	1,819
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,223	1,278	1,095	1,165
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD Hevea brasiliensis	LOGS/ton 204	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
		1" X 1"	2"X2"	3"X 3"
		1,245	1,316	1,400
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm 19.50	6mm 26.08	9mm 38.30	12mm 48.95
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm 12.90	6mm 23.95	9mm 31.70	12mm 37.80

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

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE

	April 2025		May 2025		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	APRIL/MAY	APRIL/MAY
Sabah						
Logs	0	0	39	15	100	100
Sawn Timber	413	742	439	611	6	-18
Plywood	1,907	4,018	1,474	2,710	-23	-33
Veneer	151	289	342	690	127	139
Sarawak						
Logs	0	0	26	20	100	100
Sawn Timber	0	0	215	58	100	100
Plywood	501	522	985	878	97	68
Veneer	0	0	88	248	100	100

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

KULIM

(*Scorodocarpus borneensis*)

Prepared by: Sarah Najwa Mohd Masri

Introduction

Kulim is the Standard Malaysian Name for the timber of *Scorodocarpus borneensis*, a species in the family Olacaceae. This species is monotypic, meaning it is the only member of its genus, and is native to Southeast Asia. In Malaysia, the timber is known by several vernacular names, including *bawang hutan* (in Sabah and Sarawak) and *ungsunah* (Sarawak). The wood is easily recognisable by its distinct coloration: the sapwood is light yellow, moderately sharply differentiated from the heartwood, which ranges from dark purple-brown to dark red-brown.

In the regional context, it is also known as *Bawan*, *Kasino*, *Kayu Bawang*, *Madudu*, and *Sinduk* in Indonesia, and *Krathiam ton*, *Kuleng*, and *Kulim* in Thailand.

Botanical Aspect

Kulim is a medium-to-large evergreen tree, typically growing to a height of 40 to 60 metres. In Peninsular Malaysia, its annual diameter growth is relatively slow, averaging only 0.2 to 0.3 cm per year. In Sarawak, the young shoots of the *Kulim* tree are consumed as local vegetation (*ulam*). The fruit is edible and sometimes used as substitute for garlic due to its strong aroma.



Source: Micheline Guide

Density

Kulim is classified as a Medium Hardwood, with an air-dry density ranging from 640 to 975 kg/m³. This places it in a category suitable for both moderate and heavy-duty timber applications, depending on the end use and treatment.

Natural Durability

Under local conditions, *Kulim* is rated as moderately durable. This assessment is based on a graveyard test conducted at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), using untreated specimens of 50 mm × 50 mm × 600 mm. In this test, 60 specimens yielded an average service life of 4 years (Jackson, 1965). According to Menon (1958), *Kulim* is immune to powder-post beetle attacks but susceptible to ambrosia beetles (Desch, 1941). This timber also immune to marine borers, making it somewhat suitable for marine applications.

Field trials at Port Klang showed that *Kulim* timber is not greatly inferior to belian (ironwood). Untreated timber piles of 13 x 13 cm² remained serviceable for 2 to 3 years while the 13 x 26 cm² lasted 4 to 5 years. When treated with 50/50 creosote and diesel or by full-cell pressure treatment, service life improved to 3 to 5 years, depending on dimensions. From these observations, it was projected that 30 x 30 cm² untreated piles may last 7 to 10 years (Walter, 1941).

Preservative Treatment

Kulim falls into the average category in terms of amenability to preservative treatment. While not difficult to treat, it does not absorb preservatives as effectively as more porous timbers.

Texture and Grain

The timber has a moderately fine and even texture, with shallowly to deeply interlocked grain. This interlocked grain can present some challenges when machining, but it also contributes to the wood's strength and visual appeal.

Strength Properties

Kulim timber is grouped in:

- Strength Group B (Engku, 1988b)
- Strength Group 3 (SG 3) according to MS 544: Part 2:2001

Strength Properties of *Kulim* Timber

Test condition	Modulus of Elasticity (MPa)	Modulus of Rupture (MPa)	Compression parallel to grain (MPa)	Compression perpendicular to grain (MPa)	Shear strength (MPa)
Green	13,300	78	44.4	4.48	8.8
Air Dry	14,900	107	57.0	5.10	10.3

The table above demonstrates that the strength properties of *Kulim* timber are within strength group 3 (SG 3). These classifications place *Kulim* among reliable structural timbers suitable for a range of moderate to heavy-duty construction uses when durability and strength are required. *Kulim* timber exhibits relatively high shrinkage, with an average radial shrinkage of 1.7% and tangential shrinkage of 3.2%. This suggests that appropriate care should be taken during drying and seasoning to minimise defects such as warping or checking (Wong, 1982).

Uses

Kulim timber is well-suited for medium-duty construction under sheltered conditions, including structural elements such as posts, beams, joists, rafters, as well as door and window frames and sills. Owing to its strength and moderate durability, it is also commonly utilised in the construction of bridges and for impact-resistant components such as tool handles. Notably, the timber exhibits a certain level of resistance to marine borers, making it applicable for limited use in marine environments. It is particularly suitable for ship and boat building—especially for keels, keelsons, and internal frameworks. Other uses include flooring, railway sleepers, and structural members in cooling towers. When treated with appropriate preservatives, *Kulim* timber may also be used for light-duty columns, telegraphic and power transmission posts, and cross arms.



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4 JUNE 2025

MTIB Working Visit to Wild Industries Sdn. Bhd & Syarikat Soon Her Sing Industries (M) Sdn. Bhd., Muar

12 JUNE 2025

Briefing on Incentive Scheme for the Inoculation Process of Harvest Tree for Gaharu Production (Series 10: Sri Aman, Sarawak)

13 - 15 JUNE 2025

Program Madani Rakyat 2025, Perak.

17 JUNE 2025

Wood Talk Programme Series 2: 'Future Sustainable Materials for Construction' held in Putrajaya

17 JUNE 2025

WISDEC Sabah Appreciation Ceremony "Merintis Kemahiran, Menjulung Kecemerlangan"

17 - 19 JUNE 2025

Karas Farm Auditor "Refresher" Course Series 1 in Johor