

Agarwood-Based Perfume Making Workshop



 **Composite Cement
Board Innovation
Using Karas Wood
Waste**

 **Timber in
Construction
Seminar**

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Agarwood-Based Perfume Making Workshop

Prepared by: Encik Muhd Muzakkir Kamaruzaman



The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), through its Industry Development Division, successfully organised the Basic Agarwood-Based Perfume Making Workshop from 9 to 11 September 2025 at the MTIB Conference Hall, 13th Floor, Menara PGRM 1, Kuala Lumpur.

The three-day workshop involved 36 participants, consisting of entrepreneurs, influencers, industry players, and individuals interested in exploring the potential of agarwood-based products. This workshop aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental process in perfume making using agarwood oil.

Throughout the workshop, participants gained hands-on experience in the fundamentals of perfume formulation, including mastering blending techniques, and balancing fragrance notes to create unique and marketable scents. The sessions were complemented by expert guidance on equipment handling and formulation precision to ensure product consistency.

In addition to the practical component, the workshop featured insightful sharing sessions on current trends, market opportunities, and quality standards within the fragrance and agarwood industries. Participants also engaged in discussions focused on sustainability practices

and value-added product innovation to enhance the competitiveness of local entrepreneurs in the global marketplace.



At the end of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to create their own handmade perfumes, applying their knowledge of formulation, scent balance, and individual creativity. These creations were then evaluated and critiqued by an experienced panel of judges, who provided constructive feedback for improvement and refinement of each participant's unique perfume concept.

Basic training such as this not only deepens participants' technical understanding but also supports MTIB's broader objective of empowering local entrepreneurs to diversify their products and penetrate niche fragrance markets. This initiative aligns with the agency's mission to strengthen downstream timber industry development and promote innovation-driven products under the Agarwood Industry Development Project of the 12th Malaysia Plan (RMKe-12).

MTIB hopes that similar continuous initiatives will serve as a platform to inspire more Malaysians to explore agarwood as a high-value national commodity and to reinforce Malaysia's reputation as a producer of quality, sustainable, and creative agarwood-based fragrances.



Timber in Construction Seminar

Prepared by: Encik Muhammad Fu'ad Mohamad Ali

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) prioritises the utilisation of timber, particularly within the construction sector. MTIB is steadfastly committed to sustaining timber consumption while simultaneously ensuring the satisfactory maintenance and sustainability of Malaysia's timber resources. Thus, on 3 September 2025, the Industry Development Division (BPI) of MTIB conducted a seminar titled "Seminar on the Roles and Functions of MTIB" for Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) Kedah at Hotel Grand Alora, Alor Setar, Kedah. The seminar aimed to explain MTIB's comprehensive roles and functions in the construction sector.

The program was officiated by YBrs. Ir. Ts. Dr. Izwan Johari, Director of BPI. He highlighted MTIB's continuous research and development (R&D) efforts on timber usage in the built environment, specifically aimed at restoring public confidence in timber's strength, durability, and long-term value.



YBrs. Ir. Ts. Dr. Izwan Johari officiating the event

The welcoming speech was delivered by YBrs. Ir. Mohd Fisal Ismail, Director of JKR Kedah. In his address, he reiterated JKR's unwavering commitment to support MTIB's efforts in advancing the acceptance and application of timber within the construction industry. In addition, JKR Kedah fully support the establishment of a national committee on timber use in construction, expressing confidence that these collaborative undertakings will yield significant positive outcomes.



Welcoming speech by YBrs. Ir. Mohd Fisal Ismail

The seminar covered several topics, including:

1. Introduction to MTIB

by Encik Mohd Hariz Husni,
Head of the Northern Region, MTIB

2. Introduction to JKR Kedah

by YBrs. Dr. Mohd Sabere Sulaiman,
Senior Principal Architect JKR

3. Engineered Timber Products

by Encik Muhammad Shaiful Nordin,
Senior Assistant Director, MTIB

4. Timber Verification Services (TVS)

by Cik Sarah Najwa Mohd Masri,
Assistant Director, MTIB

5. Anatomy: Introduction to Wood Anatomy

by Encik Mohider Mat Salleh,
Chief Quality Control Inspector, MTIB

6. Wood Quality and Defects in Construction

by Encik Azlin Adila Zakaria,
Assistant Economic Affairs Officer, MTIB

7. Applications of Wood Plastic Composite (WPC) in Construction

by YBrs. ChM. Ts. Dr. Loh Yueh Feng,
Senior Research Officer, MTIB



The practical session was conducted by MTIB officers

At the MTIB info booth, participants had hands-on demonstrations in timber species identification using magnifying lenses. They were also briefed on the selection of appropriate timber strength groups for structural applications, including building beams and roof trusses.



Participants with the panel speakers and VIP

In conclusion, MTIB hopes that initiatives like this will significantly raise awareness within government agencies and the construction industry regarding the significance and market potential of utilising timber. This effort will, in turn, contribute to economic resilience through the simultaneous growth of the construction sector and the Malaysian timber market.



Composite Cement Board Innovation Using Karas Wood Waste

Prepared by: Cik Zamzarina Ahmad

Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) under Fibre and Biocomposite Center (FIDEC) in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam, successfully organised a specialised workshop titled “Composite Cement Board Production Using Karas Wood Waste” to promote sustainable innovation and green technology in the construction sector. The workshop was held at Fakulti Kejuruteraan Awam, UiTM Shah Alam on 8 September 2025.

The course focused on an innovative approach to transforming karas wood waste (*Aquilaria sp.*), a by-product of the agarwood industry that is often discarded, into high-value composite cement boards. By combining this natural by-product with cement, participants explored how waste materials can be turned into durable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly building components. The initiative also highlighted the importance of the circular economy, demonstrating how industrial by-products can be repurposed into valuable resources, significantly reducing environmental impact while contributing to national sustainability goals.

Throughout the one-day course, participants were exposed to both theoretical knowledge and practical skills related to composite board production. The programme began with an introduction to the physical, chemical, and mechanical properties of karas wood waste and its potential as a raw material for alternative construction materials. This was followed by live demonstrations covering every stage of the production process, including the preparation of the cement mixture, incorporation of wood particles, moulding techniques, curing procedures, and quality evaluation of the final product.

One of the highlights was the hands-on practical session, where participants produced their own composite board samples under the guidance of experienced facilitators. This interactive component not only enhanced their technical competencies but also encouraged innovative thinking on how such materials could be scaled and applied in real industrial settings.

The organisers emphasised that the programme supports several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). By adding value to industrial by-products, initiatives like this help reduce waste generation, minimise dependence on natural resources, and create new business opportunities. Moreover, the use of composite cement boards derived from wood waste holds significant potential towards improving the competitiveness of Malaysia's construction sector by producing greener, lighter, and more cost-efficient materials suitable for various applications such as housing projects, landscaping, and modular constructions.

“Overall, the workshop was more than just a training session as it showcased how science, innovation, and creativity can converge to address real-world environmental and industrial challenges. It demonstrated that materials once considered waste can, with the right knowledge and technology, be transformed into valuable assets that benefit both society and the environment. The active participation of MTIB, UiTM, and industry stakeholders also underscored the importance of strategic collaborations in driving Malaysia's green innovation agenda.”

The programme gathered 15 participants representing MTIB, UiTM, and various industry partners, reflecting strong collaboration between academia, government agencies, and the private sector.

The success of this programme is expected to serve as a catalyst for future research, development, and commercialisation projects in sustainable material innovation. With continued cooperation between academia, government, and industry, Malaysia is well-positioned to become a regional leader in sustainable construction materials and eco-friendly technology solutions.



Prepared by: Puan Wan Syazlirawani Wan Islam



LAKAREKA SDN. BHD.

LAKAREKA Sdn. Bhd. commercially known as LAKAREKA is fully owned by Bumiputera holders and was incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 on 27 March 2023. LAKAREKA is a combination of two enterprises, that is LAKAR SIGNATURE SOLUTION which was established in 2021 and LEGASI REKA VENTURES which was set up in 2016. The founders - Badrul Hisyam, Zhafri Selamon and Muhd Afiq Farhan – are young entrepreneurs of similar design background who share the same passion for design and wood furniture.



BADRUL HISYAM
CTO & FOUNDER



ZHAFRI SELAMON
CEO & FOUNDER



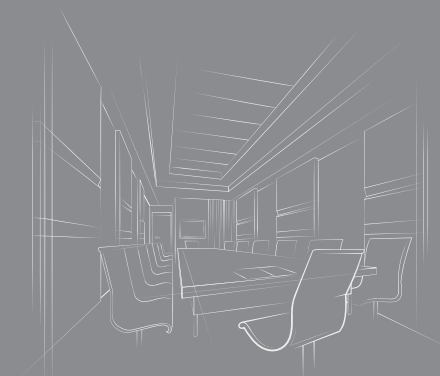
MUHD AFIQ FARHAN
COO & FOUNDER

Mission

-  **Great Quality**
Provide great quality of product and services
-  **Great Services**
Serve customer with 100% integrity
-  **Great Design**
Invest on human centric & ergonomic design
-  **Great Value**
Provide great product value with customer experience enhance
-  **Great Culture**
Create a workplaces environment by enhancing culture

Vision

To thrive in the warehouse business and make LAKAREKA Sdn. Bhd. the first choice of users regardless of any aspect including space and problems faced. To be the leading & preferred one-stop home and office furniture centre and efficiency specialist in Southeast Asia and globally.



Products and Services

The company manufactures kitchen cabinets, custom-made furniture, interior design, built works and furniture manufacturing as well as event and graphic design. The key element to success comes in the form of perseverance, precious and meticulous planning.

The LAKAREKA design team believes that the path to continued success lies in the prioritising of quality, productivity, and the nurturing of innovative teams. As such, they evaluate client needs by developing trends, products and prototypes, creating aesthetically pleasing interior spaces.

The company uses automation or assembly lines to facilitate the high-volume production of similar products. They also use digital and physical image-making tools to create their unique designs.

LAKAREKA has completed many projects of different magnitudes, serving individual and corporate clients. Some projects successfully completed by LAKAREKA include PlayHub Bukit Jalil and the La'Pet series. They have also installed their Anggun, Arissa and Noah Collections in various homes throughout Klang Valley.

Exhibitions

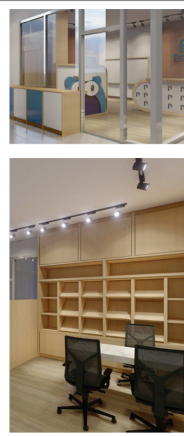
LAKAREKA has taken part in a few exhibitions both local and international such as Export Furniture Exhibition (EFE), REX Home Expo and Malaysia Furniture Furnishings Market (MFFM).



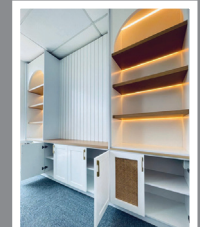
ANGGUN
concept design



PLAYHUB
Bukit Jalil



ARISSA
concept design



LAKAREKA SDN. BHD.



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For the latest updates and a closer look at LakaReka Products's offerings follow them on



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LakaReka Sdn Bhd



Malaysia's export of timber and timber products in August 2025 decreased by 8% month-on-month to RM1.85 billion, from RM2.0 billion as recorded in July 2025. Cumulative exports from January to August 2025, amounted to RM14.49 billion, representing also a decline of 5% compared to RM15.25 billion as recorded during the corresponding period in 2024 with wooden furniture recorded at RM6.2 billion from RM6.4 billion in the same period last year. The overall contraction was attributed to weaker demand for major timber products, particularly plywood, fiberboard, veneer, chipboard and particleboard, which declined by 11%, 15%, 49% and 15% to RM1.5 billion, RM419 million, RM37.8 million and RM132.4 million respectively. In contrast, builders' joinery and carpentry products registered an increase of 10% to RM 951.1 million. However, sawntimber recorded a 2% decrease to RM1.4 billion compared to the last corresponding period.

The global wood and timber product market is demonstrating robust growth, with its size estimated at USD 992.43 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 1,251.26 billion by 2030, reflecting a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.7% from 2025 to 2030. This growth is primarily driven by rapid global urbanisation and population growth, particularly in developing economies like China and India, which fuels a surging need for housing, commercial buildings, and infrastructure.

Timber is favoured in construction due to its durability, affordability, and sustainability compared to traditional materials, a trend further amplified by innovations in engineered wood products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glulam. Geographically, the Asia Pacific region dominates the market, holding a 31.8% share in 2024, with China notably standing as the world's largest consumer and importer of these products.



SAWNTIMBER

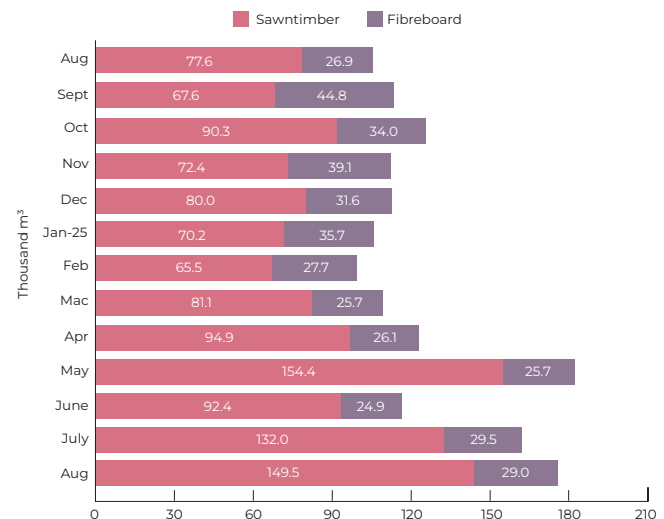
Total sawntimber export in August 2025 fell 70% in volume and 8% in value with 149,542 m³, valued at RM204.91 million compared to 498,203 m³ worth RM223.20 million in July 2025. Cumulative exports for January–August 2025 reached 820,556 m³ worth RM1.41 billion, showing a 22% increase in volume but a 2% decline in value compared to 671,629 m³ worth RM1.43 billion during the same period in 2024.

In the European Union, exports fell significantly by 40% to 34,264 m³ in August 2025 compared to 56,856 m³ in July 2025. Greece dominated this volume with 30,228 m³, showing a 44% decline from the last month. Meanwhile, the Netherlands increased import to 1,540 m³, growing by 21%, and Belgium rose 43% to 465 m³. Exports to other parts of Europe from 732 m³ last month rose 19% to 875 m³, all of which went to the United Kingdom with purchasing rising by 20%.

In South Asia, shipments fell by 20% to 16,252 m³, led by the Maldives, with imports declining by 63% to 3,614 m³ from 9,821 m³. India recorded a growth of 23% to 7,147 m³, while Sri Lanka imports rose by 15% to 3,886 m³.

Exports to West Asia fell sharply by 95% to 17,074 m³ from 325,885 m³ in the last period. Market performance was mixed by which the UAE saw a marginal increase to 6,610 m³, while Iraq fell 40% to 699 m³, and Saudi Arabia surged by 176% to 680 m³.

Malaysia: Export of Sawn Timber and MDF



In East Asia, shipments contracted by 33% to 44,281 m³ with Japan seeing a sharp drop of 83% to 2,763 m³, while China fell by 33% to 31,414 m³, and Taiwan increased by 543% to 8,004 m³.

Shipments to ASEAN markets jumped 51% to 32,454 m³ from 21,496 m³ last month, driven by key members. The Philippines rose more than two-fold, increased by 145% to 19,789 m³ from 8,077 m³. Thailand declined by 13% to 5,222 m³, and intake from Singapore decline marginally to 6,330 m³ from 6,350 m³ in July 2025.

Exports to Africa fell significantly by 55% to 1,712 m³ from 3,841 m³, led by Mauritius, which dropped their intake by 75% to 129 m³, followed by South Africa, down 51% to 1,547 m³. Meanwhile, exports to North America grew by 14% to

2,589 m³, with the United States accounting for 2,346 m³, rising by 19% from the last period. Exports to the Oceania/Pacific region rose by 16% to 873 m³, the majority being shipped to Australia, which increased imports by 16%, while intake from New Zealand for the month remained at 0 m³.

The average FOB price for overall sawntimber in August 2025 was recorded at RM1,370 per m³. Dark Red Meranti (DRM) exports fell by 56% to 968 m³, Keruing exports fell by 11% to 2,653 m³, while DRM to the Netherlands fell by 4% to 3,304 m³. In the meantime, no trade was recorded for Redwood (UAE).

Europe, which supplies roughly one-third of global softwood lumber, is poised for moderate recovery alongside improving construction sentiment. Production in Northern and Central Europe, however, has reached sustainable limits, and beetle-related salvage harvests are declining. Future growth is likely to depend on Eastern Europe and the Baltic region, where resource availability and processing capacity remain relatively strong. Despite these opportunities, Europe's output is expected to grow only modestly, constrained by sustainability policies and limited new forest expansion.



PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in August 2025 recorded a decrease of 24% in volume at 83,611 m³ and 22% in value at RM176.2 million as compared to the previous month. The cumulative exports for the period of January – August 2025 showed a decrease of 2% in volume with 740,518 m³ and 11% in value with RM1.5 billion compared to the previous corresponding period.

Moving to the East Asia market, volume dropped by 40% to 47,254 m³ from 79,058 m³ in July. Japan as the largest importer from the region, reduced its buying by 43% to 41,341 m³, followed by South Korea with a decrease of 33% to 1,881 m³. Taiwan, however, increased its imports by 8% to 3,779 m³. In the ASEAN region, import also decreased by 18% from 3,815 m³ to 3,148 m³. Plywood export to Thailand and Singapore declined by 34% to 816 m³ and 17% to 1,550 m³ each. The Philippines however, increased its imports by 27% to 512 m³.

The EU region recorded an increasing trend for plywood imports by 152% from 2,516 m³ to 6,347 m³. Italy increased purchases by 45% to 1,747 m³. Poland and Belgium reduced their purchases by 96%, 69% and 1% to 43 m³, 88 m³ and 292 m³ respectively. In other parts of Europe, export declined by 29% to 5,027 m³ from 7,101 m³ in the previous month. Plywood purchases by the UK and Turkiye decreased by 27% to 3,009 m³ and 32% to 2,018 m³ each.

In the South Asia region, plywood purchases recorded an increase of 333% from 103 m³ to 447 m³. The Maldives

increased its purchases by 276% to 387 m³ while India resumed its plywood imports with 40 m³. Pakistan however did not make any purchase for the month. The West Asia region also recorded an improvement of 5% to 4,804 m³ from 4,573 m³ in the previous month. Yemen increased its imports by 27% to 3,887 m³ while the UAE resumed purchases with 86 m³. Jordan did not make any purchase for the month.

In the Africa region, plywood exports recorded a decrease of 42% from 142 m³ to 83 m³. South Africa reduced its purchases by 20% to 83 m³ while Mauritius did not make any purchase for the month. The North America region showed an increase of 31% from 11,114 m³ to 14,544 m³. The USA as the main buyer increased purchases by 40% to 14,446 m³, while Canada reduced its imports by 43% to 98 m³. Meanwhile, Mexico did not make any purchase for the month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, plywood exports increased slightly by 2% from 1,921 m³ to 1,955 m³, with purchases from Australia totalling at 1,644 m³.

The average FOB price of plywood for August 2025 was at RM2,107 per m³, an increase of 3% from RM2,047 per m³ from the previous month.

The construction industry showed a strong recovery in the second quarter of 2025, ending a year-long period of contraction, according to the Maldives Monetary Authority's Quarterly Business Survey. The survey's "volume of construction activity" index rose by 92 points to 46, indicating a far greater share of businesses reported increased activity compared to those reporting declines. A positive index indicates that more firms are experiencing growth than contraction, and the magnitude of the point increase shows how sharply sentiment has shifted from the previous quarter. Similarly, the "volume of orders received" index climbed 51 points to 27, signaling a notable rise in incoming contracts across the sector.



VENEER

Exports of veneer for August 2025 decreased by 38% in volume to 1,897 m³ and by 34% in value to RM4.1 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative exports for January–August 2025 showed a decrease in both volume and value, down by 48% to 18,842 m³ and 49% to RM37.8 million compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

The ASEAN region recorded a decrease of 96% in veneer imports from 235 m³ to 9 m³ for the month, with a sole purchase from Singapore. Meanwhile, Viet Nam did not make any purchase for the month. In East Asia, exports also declined by 5%, from 1,266 m³ to 1,203 m³. Japan reduced its veneer imports by 4%, from 156 m³ to 149 m³, while China

increased its purchases by 287% to 238 m³. South Korea resumed purchases with- 327 m³. Likewise, South Asia reduced imports by 69%, from 840 m³ to 265 m³. Veneer purchases by India decreased by 81% to 133 m³, while Bangladesh maintained purchases at 132 m³.

“Moving to North America, veneer imports decreased by 45% to 376 m³ from 689 m³. The USA reduced purchases by 90% to 63 m³, while Canada increased its imports by 864% to 313 m³. The EU region resumed purchases at 16 m³, while the Oceania/ Pacific and Africa regions did not make any purchases for the month.

The average FOB price for veneer rose by 6%, from RM2,020 per m³ to RM2,148 per m³ compared to the previous month.

China’s real estate investment fell by 10.7% from January to May 2025 year-on-year due to a multi-year housing market slump and weak local government demand. Nevertheless, China remains the world’s largest construction market, valued at approximately USD4.82 trillion in 2025. It has shifted toward green, low-carbon building and urban renewal projects. As urbanisation slows and the property market stabilises, opportunities for design and construction firms are evolving. With an urbanisation rate of 67% in 2024, demand is more stable in Tier 1 cities like Beijing and Shanghai, driving greater focus on sustainable construction and alignment with China’s dual carbon goals – reaching peak carbon emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060.

MEDIUM DENSITY
FIBREBOARD(MDF)

Exports of MDF in August 2025 recorded a 2% decrease in volume to 28,980 m³ and a 3% decrease in value to RM53.5 million compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative exports for the period of January–August 2025 also recorded decreases in both volume and value, down by 14% to 224,164 m³ and 15% to RM419.0 million compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

Exports to ASEAN decreased by 2% from 4,855 m³ to 4,771 m³ compared to the previous month. The Philippines and Indonesia reduced imports by 7% and 44% to 2,335 m³ and 706 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Viet Nam increased imports by 99% to 1,173 m³.

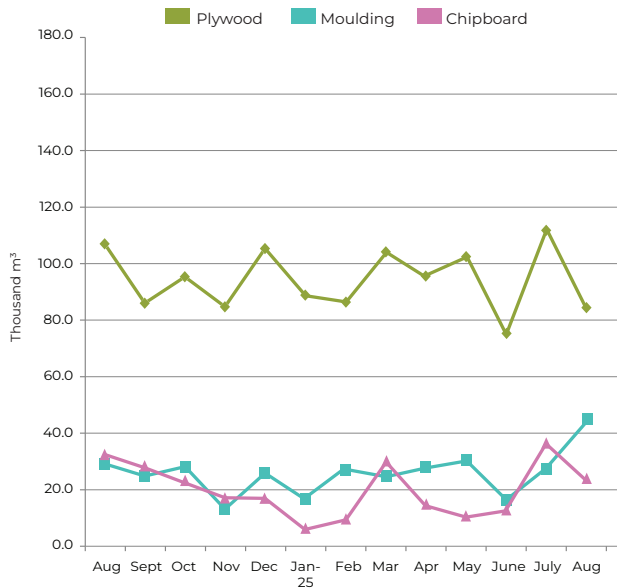
Elsewhere, purchases from East Asia increased by 2% from 10,990 m³ to 11,197 m³ compared to the previous month. Imports of MDF by Japan and Taiwan rose by 4% and 198% to 10,445 m³ and 740 m³ respectively, while South Korea reduced purchases by 98% to 10 m³. Moving to the South Asia market, exports decreased by 12% from 3,702 m³ to 3,261 m³. Export performance to Pakistan grew by 31% to 1,974 m³, while India reduced imports by 60% to 537 m³. Meanwhile, Nepal did not make any purchase for the month.

Exports to the West Asia region recorded an increase of 6%, from 5,858 m³ to 6,224 m³ compared to the previous month. The UAE and Yemen reduced orders by 73% to 620 m³ and 1% to 2,651 m³ respectively, while Saudi Arabia resumed purchases with 105 m³. On the other hand, countries in the Europe, Central America, and South America regions did not make any purchases of Malaysian MDF for the month.

“Exports to the Oceania/Pacific region declined by 25% to 1,259 m³ from 1,681 m³. New Zealand however, increased purchases by 54% to 65 m³, while Australia reduced imports by 27% to 1,194 m³. MDF imports by North America also fell by 4%, from 2,238 m³ to 2,139 m³ compared to the previous month. Purchases by Canada and Mexico decreased by 33% to 459 m³ and 34% to 204 m³ respectively, while the USA increased imports by 18% to 1,476 m³ from 1,248 m³. In the Africa region, MDF imports increased by 24% to 131 m³, dominated by South Africa, while Mauritius did not make any purchase for the month.

The average FOB price of MDF fell by 1% to RM1,848 per m³ from RM1,866 per m³ in the previous month.

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



Saudi Arabia’s timber market is projected to reach about USD4.1 billion by 2029, driven primarily by the construction boom tied to its Vision 2030 and major “giga-projects” like NEOM and the Red Sea Project. While timber has traditionally been underutilized in the Kingdom due to perceptions of durability issues in the arid climate, fire-code constraints, fewer local testing/case studies, higher up-front costs, and a fragmented supply chain, industry experts see timber as

offering substantial advantages such as lower embodied carbon, lighter weight, faster installation, and improved aesthetics. To accelerate timber uptake, they advocate for education of specifiers and manufacturers, updates to building codes, pilot projects demonstrating performance in harsh climates, and incentives for low-carbon materials. Though still emerging, timber is increasingly viewed as a strategic material for interior joinery, modular housing, and public or hospitality buildings in the Kingdom.



MOULDINGS

The export of mouldings in August 2025 increased by 51% in volume, reaching 43,132 m³; however, it decreased by 13% in value, amounting to RM76.8 million as compared to July 2025. For the cumulative period from January to August 2025, exports of mouldings rose by 9% in volume to 0.2 million m³; however, the value decreased by 4% to RM610.7 million compared to RM635.3 million in the same period of 2024.

Exports to ASEAN countries decreased by 29% to 1,015 m³ in August 2025, down from 1,424 m³ in July 2025. Exports to Singapore declined by 24% to 850 m³, and similarly, exports to Viet Nam dropped by 37% to 93 m³ from the previous month.

In the East Asia region, exports of mouldings were recorded at 1,544 m³ in August 2025, a decrease of 10% from 1,717 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Japan and Hong Kong increased by 13% to 773 m³ and 43% to 62 m³, respectively. Meanwhile, exports to South Korea decreased by 35% to 434 m³ from 662 m³ in July 2025.

In the South Asia region, export volume showed a mixed trend, declining by 7% to 305 m³ in August 2025 compared to the previous month. Exports to the Maldives increased by 25% to 287 m³, while intake from Sri Lanka dropped by 31% to 18 m³ in August 2025 compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, exports to the UAE increased by 80% to 18 m³ for the month.

Exports to the EU showed an upward trend, increasing by 7% to 5,330 m³ in August 2025 compared to 4,987 m³ in July 2025. The Netherlands recorded an increase in exports for the month of August 2025 with 2,771 m³, up 21% from 2,284 m³ in July 2025. Meanwhile, exports to France and Belgium dropped by 9% to 841 m³ and by 40% to 224 m³, respectively. Likewise, intake from the UK declined by 20% to 316 m³ for the month.

In the Oceania and Pacific region, exports of mouldings to Australia decreased by 11% to 1,600 m³ for the month as compared to 1,790 m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, in North America, total demand improved by 87% to 32,536 m³ in August 2025 compared to the previous month. Exports

to the USA dropped by 24% to 12,712 m³, while exports to Canada improved significantly to 19,823 m³ from 310 m³ in the same month in 2024.

In the Africa region, total export increased by 4% to 466 m³ compared to 447 m³ in July 2025. Exports to Mauritius grew by 11% to 277 m³, while purchases from South Africa also rose by 75% to 189 m³ for the month.

The average FOB unit value for mouldings in August 2025 decreased by 43% to RM1,786 per m³ compared to RM3,105 per m³ in July 2025.

Construction activity in the UK has continued to weaken, according to the latest Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) market survey, with forward-looking indicators also pointing to a more subdued outlook. The headline workloads indicator fell to a net balance of -8% in the third quarter of 2025, down from -5% previously, marking a shift back into negative territory after a brief period of stability. Work on new projects showed the sharpest decline, with the net balance slipping to -13%, while repair and maintenance work remained flat at +2%. Infrastructure was the only sector to post positive growth, albeit at a slower pace, falling to +8% from +11% in the previous quarter. Activity in public and private housing, private commercial, and industrial sectors all moved further into decline, reversing earlier signs of stabilisation seen at the start of the year. Within infrastructure, energy and utilities remained comparatively resilient. Net balances for energy and water and sewage stood at +29% and +18%, respectively. Activity in communications infrastructure also improved, rising from +7% to +16%. However, workloads were reported as flat across harbours, roads, and rail. Financial constraints and regulatory barriers were cited by more than 60% of respondents as key impediments to activity.

Despite recent interest rate cuts, expectations around credit availability have deteriorated, with the net balance for three-month credit conditions falling from -15% to -19%. Demand-side pressures also appear to be worsening. The share of respondents citing insufficient demand as a key barrier to growth rose to 41%. New business enquiries registered a net balance of -7%, down from -1% in the previous quarter. Labour shortages persist, though signs suggest pressures may be easing as the wider market slows. Around 37% of survey participants continued to report difficulties sourcing staff. Infrastructure remains the most optimistic sector at +24%, but even this is down from +34% in Q2. Private residential and commercial outlooks were largely flat, with net balances falling to +7% and +2%, respectively. The softening outlook follows ongoing macroeconomic uncertainty, slow planning approvals, and investor caution in the face of high build costs and subdued demand.





BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY

The total export of builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC) in August 2025 decreased by 17% in volume to 14.2 million kg and by 16% in value to RM129.1 million. However, for the cumulative period of January - August 2025, exports of BJC increased by 15% in volume to 103.5 million kg and by 10% in value to RM951.1 million compared to the corresponding period of 2024.

Shipments of BJC to ASEAN were valued at RM59.1 million, a decrease of 38% from RM95.9 million in the corresponding period of 2024. Singapore, as the main buyer, decreased its purchases by 55%, valued at RM31.8 million compared to the previous period. Similarly, there was a reduction in exports to Viet Nam by 19%, valued at RM7.6 million. However, exports to Thailand increased by 27%, valued at RM12.4 million for the period of January to August 2025.

As for the East Asia region, exports declined by 12% from RM61.7 million to RM54.2 million. Japan, despite being the main buyer from this region, reduced its imports by 11% to RM38.6 million from RM43.4 million over the same corresponding period. Similarly, exports to China and Taiwan also declined by 27% to RM6.3 million and by 37% to RM3.8 million, respectively.

Exports to South Asia were recorded at RM16.5 million, a decrease of 44% from RM29.5 million in the corresponding period of 2024. Both India and the Maldives decreased their imports by 37% to RM11.3 million and by 41% to RM2.5 million, respectively. Similarly, Bangladesh reduced its purchases by 82%, from RM1.7 million to RM0.3 million during the period of January - August 2025.

However, in the West Asia region, total export of BJC grew significantly by 302%, totalling at RM11.6 million compared to RM2.9 million in the previous year. The main buyer from this region was Saudi Arabia, with a total purchase of RM10.1 million. Meanwhile, demand from Kuwait dropped by 81%, valued at RM96,119 for the stated period. Similarly, exports to the UAE dropped by 39% to RM1.3 million from RM2.1 million in the period January to August 2024.

Total export of BJC to the European Union region rose by 14%, increasing from RM162.5 million to RM185.5 million. Intake from Belgium increased by 49% to RM69.6 million, followed by the Netherlands, where exports improved marginally by 0.2% to RM58.9 million. Nevertheless, intake from France dropped by 17% to RM10.6 million for the stated period. Meanwhile, exports to other European countries declined by 14%, totalling at RM92.6 million. The United Kingdom decreased its intake by 9% to RM89.1 million. Purchases by Norway and Türkiye also dropped by 63% to RM3.1 million and by 50% to RM0.4 million, respectively.

Shipments to the Oceania and Pacific region decreased by 4% to RM154.4 million in the period from January to August 2025. Australia, as the main buyer, reduced its purchases by 4%, with a total value of RM140.3 million compared to RM145.8 million in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, New Zealand lowered its intake by 9% to RM11.2 million, while exports to Tonga declined by 12% to RM0.5 million for the stated period.

Shipments to North America increased by 56%, amounting to RM371.3 million, whereas the USA, as the main buyer from this region, increased its purchases by 58%, with a total value of RM367.2 million. However, intake by Canada dropped by 24% to RM3.5 million.



Shipments to Africa, on the other hand, decreased by 26% to RM5.8 million in the period of January - August 2025. There was a decrease in exports of BJC to South Africa by 22%, from RM4.0 million to RM3.1 million. Similarly, Mauritius reduced its purchases by 55% to RM0.7 million, while Morocco increased its intake by 619%, valued at RM0.9 million for the cumulative period of January - August 2025.



According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University, annual expenditures for improvements and maintenance to owner-occupied homes are projected to remain steady through the end of this year and into the middle of 2026, based on the latest Leading Indicator of Remodelling Activity (LIRA). The LIRA projects that year-over-year spending on home renovation and repair will rise by 2.4% in early 2026 before easing to 1.9% in the third quarter of 2026. Upward trends in both remodelling permit activity and single-family home sales suggest that demand for home improvement will remain stable in the coming year. Despite the modest pace, total homeowner remodelling spending is expected to reach USD524 billion in early 2026, a new record high. If the housing market begins to show signs of momentum, remodelling could be poised for stronger growth into 2027. However, sluggish housing starts and uncertainty in the broader economy—which are factors in predicting remodelling expenditures—are creating headwinds to larger gains in renovation and repair spending.

According to Builders' Joinery and Carpentry of Wood Market Size & Share Analysis – Growth Trends and Forecast (2025–2030) by Mordor Intelligence, the builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC) of timber market size was USD80.36 billion in 2025 and is forecast to reach USD99.91 billion by 2030, advancing at a 4.45% CAGR. The expansion is fuelled by green-building regulations, engineered timber innovation, and digital manufacturing that compresses lead times while cutting waste. Mass timber code upgrades unlock taller structures, and carbon-credit monetisation converts embodied carbon into cash flow, enhancing project yields even as raw material volatility and labour scarcity persist. Consolidation among large building material groups contrasts with a surge of tech disruptors introducing composites that rival steel on strength-to-weight metrics, reshaping competitive dynamics across the builders' joinery and carpentry wood market. However, wildfire-driven supply shocks and skilled-trade shortages strain execution. Off-site prefabrication and circular economy incentives offset near-term headwinds and anchor a resilient growth trajectory.

through 2030. Door and window frames captured 38.98% of the builders' joinery and carpentry timber market share in 2024. The BJC for cellular wood panels is projected to grow at a 6.77% CAGR between 2025 and 2030. Engineered wood commanded 53.48% of 2024 revenue. By application, residential construction generated 60.54% of 2024 sales. Non-residential demand is advancing at a 5.99% CAGR as mass timber penetrates office and institutional projects. By geography, Asia-Pacific held 47.67% of the builders' joinery and carpentry wood market share in 2024. The region's builders' joinery and carpentry wood market size is expected to rise at a 6.35% CAGR through 2030.

FURNITURE

The total export value of wooden furniture in August 2025 declined by 7% to RM776.6 million compared to RM830.4 million in July 2025, reflecting a moderation in export demand after a stronger performance in the previous month. Cumulatively, exports of wooden furniture for the period of January–August 2025 recorded a value of RM6.2 billion, a slight decline of 3% compared to RM6.4 billion registered in the same period of 2024.

Shipments of wooden furniture to ASEAN were valued at RM761.2 million for the period of January–August 2025, a decline of 5% compared to RM802.1 million in the same period of 2024. Singapore remained the leading market, with exports increased by 8% to RM507.7 million, reflecting steady demand from the high-end furniture segment. However, exports to Indonesia and Thailand fell by 36% and 1%, valued at RM43.8 million and RM45.6 million, respectively.

Exports to East Asia fell by 4% to RM358.9 million from RM379.1 million in the corresponding period of 2024. Japan continued to dominate as the main destination, increasing marginally by 2% to RM295.6 million, supported by consistent consumer demand. Meanwhile, exports to Taiwan and South Korea declined by 14% and 26%, amounting to RM27.7 million and RM17.0 million, respectively.

In South Asia, exports dropped by 9% to RM100.6 million compared to RM110.0 million in 2024. India remained the major market in the region with exports valued at RM94.0 million, a slight decline of 5%. Exports to the Maldives and Sri Lanka fell sharply by 46% and 23% to RM4.5 million and RM1.2 million, respectively.

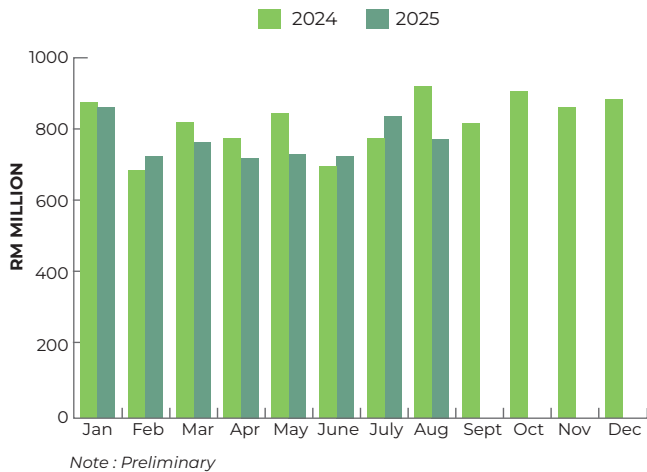
“Shipments to Central Asia decreased slightly by 7% to RM2.5 million compared to RM2.6 million in the previous year. Kazakhstan was the primary market, with exports growing 8% to RM2.3 million, while Azerbaijan recorded new shipments worth RM0.1 million. Exports to Armenia plunged by 83% to RM0.03 million from RM0.2 million in the last corresponding period.”

In West Asia, total export was valued at RM328.9 million, a marginal decline of 3% from RM340.0 million in the same period in 2024. Saudi Arabia recorded an increase of 6% to RM122.8 million, while Oman rose by 9% to RM17.5 million, indicating stronger demand from Gulf markets. However, exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) fell by 15% to RM131.4 million.

Exports of wooden furniture to the European Union decreased by 19% to RM209.7 million compared to RM257.9 million in the corresponding period of 2024. Among key markets, Germany recorded a modest rise of 4% to RM30.5 million, while Belgium declined by 11% to RM24.0 million, reflecting weaker demand from Western Europe.

In other parts of Europe, exports fell by 7% to RM308.5 million from RM331.1 million a year earlier. The United Kingdom remained the major market, although shipments dipped slightly by 3% to RM288.2 million. Exports to Georgia eased by 4% to RM7.3 million, while Türkiye recorded a significant decline of 57% to RM5.3 million due to lower orders.

Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture



Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific region contracted by 18% to RM314.8 million compared to RM384.4 million in 2024. Australia, the main destination, saw its imports decrease by 18% to RM276.2 million, while exports to New Zealand and Fiji recorded mixed performances — a drop of 11% to RM22.4 million and an increase of 19% to RM5.2 million, respectively.

Exports to Central America fell sharply by 31% to RM26.4 million from RM38.3 million in the last period of 2024. Panama posted a slight rise of 3% to RM11.1 million, whereas Guatemala and El Salvador recorded significant declines of 16% and 42%, valued at RM6.1 million and RM4.4 million, respectively.

The North American market continued to perform positively, rising by 3% to RM3.62 billion compared to RM3.52 billion in the same period of 2024. The United States remained Malaysia's largest export destination, with shipments increasing by 3% to RM3.24 billion. Canada saw a marginal fall of 2% to RM268.4 million, while Puerto Rico posted a strong increase of 59% to RM56.6 million, indicating a growing niche demand.

Exports to South America declined by 25% to RM58.2 million compared to RM77.3 million in the previous year. Chile registered a substantial drop of 38% to RM27.7 million, while

imports to Peru fell by 31% to RM9.5 million. Conversely, Venezuela recorded a strong rebound of 91% to RM5.9 million, supported by recovering market demand.

Shipments to Africa moderated by 8% to RM98.8 million from RM107.3 million in 2024. South Africa remained the leading destination with exports valued at RM30.3 million, down 11%. Exports to Réunion Island and Kenya also decreased purchases by 13% and 18%, amounting to RM8.4 million and RM7.9 million, respectively.

The total export value of rattan furniture in August 2025 increased by 8% to RM7.5 million compared to RM7.0 million recorded in July 2025, indicating continued growth in overseas demand. Cumulatively, exports of rattan furniture for the period of January–August 2025 rose by 19% to RM50.9 million compared to RM42.7 million registered in the corresponding period of 2024, supported by higher orders from key regional markets.

Exports of rattan furniture to the ASEAN region reduced by 29% to RM4.0 million compared to RM5.5 million recorded in the same period of 2024. Singapore, the main importer, reduced its purchases by 40% to RM1.0 million, while exports to Thailand fell by 20% to RM0.5 million. In contrast, shipments to Indonesia surged by 172% to RM0.2 million, reflecting improved regional demand.

Exports to the East Asia region increased by 40% to RM1.6 million from RM1.1 million in the previous corresponding period. Japan remained the largest market, registering a modest growth of 3% to RM0.7 million. Hong Kong recorded a significant surge of 1,663% to RM0.10 million, while exports to China contracted by 75% to RM0.07 million.

In the South Asia region, India remained the sole export destination, with shipments increasing by 59% to RM1.0 million from RM0.6 million in same period of 2024.

Exports to West Asia expanded strongly by 57% to RM4.5 million, supported by robust demand from Iraq, which soared 525% to RM1.1 million. Exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) grew by 6% to RM1.5 million, while Qatar reduced purchases by 33% to RM0.07 million for the same period.

Shipments to the European Union increased sharply by 68% to RM11.6 million compared to RM6.9 million in the corresponding period of 2024. The growth was mainly driven by higher demand from Spain, which rose significantly by 339% to RM4.5 million, followed by Germany, which almost doubled purchases to RM1.01 million (up 97%). Meanwhile, France recorded a moderate increase of 3% to RM1.86 million, reflecting stable demand from this market.

Exports to other parts of Europe, however, declined by 31% to RM3.37 million from RM4.85 million last year. The United Kingdom remained the largest market, although imports dropped by 29% to RM2.93 million. Shipments to Russia fell by 53% to RM0.21 million, while Georgia decreased buying by 36% to RM0.12 million, reflecting a general slowdown in regional demand.

Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific region decreased by 14% to RM1.81 million compared to RM2.11 million recorded in the same period of 2024. Australia remained the leading market, although exports fell by 11% to RM1.62 million. In

contrast, New Zealand posted a strong increase of 75% to RM0.18 million, while exports to Western Samoa dropped sharply by 88% to RM0.008 million, reflecting reduced regional demand.

No exports were recorded to Central America during January–August 2025, compared to RM0.04 million in the corresponding period of 2024.

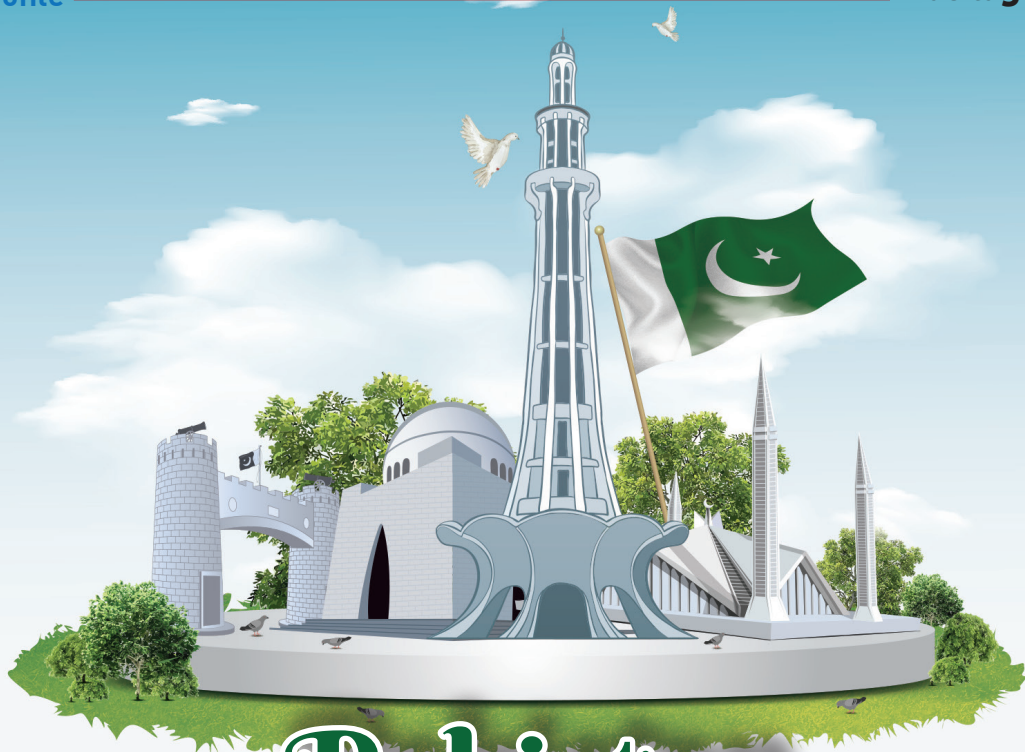
Exports to North America expanded by 25% to RM21.43 million from RM17.21 million in the previous year, supported by higher shipments to the United States, which surged by 39% to RM18.39 million. Exports to Puerto Rico also grew significantly by 277% to RM0.86 million, while Canada reduced buying by 23% to RM1.21 million.

In South America, exports increased by 9% to RM0.78 million compared to RM0.71 million in 2024, driven by stronger demand from Chile, with purchases increased by 26% to RM0.73 million.

Exports to Africa also strengthened by 39% to RM0.81 million from RM0.58 million in 2024, with South Africa accounting for the majority of shipments, recording a sharp increase of 66% to RM0.29 million.

Broad Sheet Asia reported that Malaysia's furniture exporters face both opportunities and challenges in the global market. While U.S. tariffs pose a risk, Malaysia benefits from relatively lower tariff rates compared to some regional competitors, giving exporters a potential advantage in maintaining market share. At the same time, the industry remains cautious as the U.S. market accounts for a significant portion of Malaysian wooden furniture exports, and new tariffs of up to 25% could affect competitiveness and profitability. Rising domestic costs and supply-chain pressures further contribute to uncertainty. To mitigate risks, many manufacturers are proactively adjusting strategies, including accelerating shipments, optimising logistics, and negotiating favourable terms with U.S. buyers. These measures aim to sustain exports despite tariff challenges while positioning Malaysia to capture potential trade-diversion opportunities.





Pakistan

Timber Market Outlook: Towards Value Addition and Modernisation Trends

OVERVIEW

Pakistan is situated in the southern part of Asia that shares its eastern borders with India, while to the west, it borders Iran and Afghanistan. China forms its northeastern frontier and in the south, Pakistan has a coastline along the Arabian Sea. Pakistan encompasses an area of approximately 881,913 square kilometres (340,509 square miles), making it the 33rd largest country in the world by total land area. Pakistan's population in 2025 is estimated to be around 255.2 million, that makes Pakistan the fifth most populous country in the world, with a population of approximately 34% living in urban areas. Islamabad is the nation's capital, while Karachi is its largest city and financial centre, followed by Lahore and Faisalabad. Pakistan elected a civilian government in 2008, and in 2010 adopted a parliamentary system with periodic elections.

ECONOMY

Pakistan operates a mixed economy in which the state plays a significant role, with state-owned enterprises accounting for a large portion of gross domestic product. The economy has shifted from a predominantly agricultural base at independence to a more diverse structure in which agriculture now contributes about one-fifth of its GDP, manufacturing about one-sixth, while trade and services together form the largest share. Despite these structural changes and steady overall growth, the country faces two major challenges which are rapid population growth dampening gains in per capita income and persistent regional disparities with more prosperous industrialised regions such as around Karachi and Lahore.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that Pakistan's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth will reach about 3.6% in the fiscal year 2025-2026, falling short of the government's target of 4.2%. For the previous fiscal year 2024-2025, the IMF slightly upgraded its growth estimate to 2.7%. These figures reflect a slow recovery with a persistent headwind, suggesting that Pakistan faces an uphill task in meeting its growth ambitions.

FOREST RESOURCES

Forestry in Pakistan plays a modest but crucial role in the country's environment, economy and culture. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), forests cover is between 5.1 – 5.7% of Pakistan's land area. Different provinces show quite varied forest densities. Azad Jammu and Kashmir leads with the highest forest cover around 37%, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, whereas many other regions have much less.

There are several types of forests in Pakistan, spanning alpine coniferous zones in mountainous regions, subtropical dry forests, riparian belts along rivers, mangroves in the Indus Delta and human-created plantations. Species diversity is also large such as high-altitude conifers like Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*), Pindrow fir, Morinda spruce, scrub and thorn species in drier lowlands and riparian and mangrove species in wet zones. The irrigated plantations such as Changa Manga, Chichawatni and Kamalia also play an important role in producing timber, fuelwood and other forest products to help reduce pressure on natural forests.

In recent years, Pakistan has continued to see a steady decline in forest cover. From 1992 to 2025, forest area dropped from about 3.78 million hectares to 3.09 million hectares, an approximately 18% reduction. The country is losing around 11,000 hectares per year to deforestation, driven by factors like illegal logging, land conversion, wildfires and encroachment for housing and agriculture. Despite governmental efforts, this rate of loss remains high and is seen as a major environmental concern.

Looking ahead, there is increasing emphasis on linking forestry with climate resilience, carbon finance and better monitoring. Efforts such as Forest Vision 2050 in Punjab are being developed to reorient forest management around ecological balance and climate change rather than just timber. Satellite surveillance is also being pushed to verify cover claims and better track illegal logging. Overall, Pakistan's forestry sector stands at a critical crossroad while deforestation remains a serious threat with the growing focus on reforestation, carbon finance and sustainable forest management offering a clear pathway toward long-term ecological and economic resilience.

PRODUCTION

According to the FAO forest statistics, Pakistan's productions stood at around 4.6 million cubic meters of major timber products in 2023. Top 3 timber production in year 2023 were sawlogs and veneer logs with around 1.5 million cubic metres, followed by wood fuel, 1.2 million cubic metres and sawnwood (non-coniferus) 919,000 cubic metres. Details of production are as below:

PAKISTAN: PRODUCTION OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS (2019 - 2023)

Products	Unit	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sawlogs and veneer logs, coniferous	m ³	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000
Wood fuel, coniferous	m ³	1,133,349	1,133,349	1,156,569	1,159,538	1,162,542
Sawnwood, non- coniferous	m ³	919,000	919,000	919,000	919,000	919,000
Sawnwood, coniferous	m ³	462,000	462,000	462,000	462,000	462,000
Veneer sheets	m ³	217,000	217,000	217,000	217,000	217,000
Plywood and LVL	m ³	175,000	178,000	178,000	178,000	178,000
Wood charcoal	tonne	88,735	90,515	92,310	94,140	96,006
Other industrial roundwood, coniferous (production)	m ³	82,000	82,000	82,000	82,000	82,000
Particle board	m ³	76,000	76,000	76,000	76,000	76,000
Medium/high density fibreboard (MDF/HDF)	m ³	67,000	67,000	67,000	67,000	67,000

Source : FAO STATS

PAKISTAN'S EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

Pakistan's timber export industry is considered small and still developing. The country actually imports more timber than it exports to meet local demand. Although exports are growing marginally each year, the sector struggles to compete globally because of issues such as deforestation, complex regulations and internal inefficiencies. In 2024, Pakistan's export of timber and timber products increased by 16% to USD55.4 million over the previous corresponding period. Pakistan exports were mainly in the form of fibreboard, furniture and particleboard totalled at USD30.2 million, USD7.2 million and USD5.6 million respectively.

PAKISTAN: EXPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS (2020 - 2024)

USD '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fibreboard	29,502	23,610	22,994	26,840	30,199
Furniture	4,783	8,232	13,325	9,436	7,233
Particle board	1,147	2,211	2,131	1,572	5,559
Plywood	2,496	1,774	2,449	5,202	1,842
Wooden frames	553	501	597	403	204
Builders' joinery and carpentry	31	51	32	46	122
Mouldings	163	217	129	66	40
Logs	0	0	25	0	7
Veneer	2	4	6	3	3
Others	2,130	2,083	4,409	4,227	10,169
Total	40,807	38,683	46,097	47,795	55,378

Source: ITC Stats

The top export destinations for Pakistani timber and timber products (HS44) were to Afghanistan (USD36.0 million), Kenya (USD4.8 million) and Djibouti (USD2.1 million) respectively. Meanwhile, Malaysia was at the 21st place as an export destination valued at USD40 thousand. As for furniture (HS9403), the main export destination was to Germany at USD2.0 million, followed by the USA (USD1.8 million) and United Kingdom (USD824 thousands). Malaysia was ranked at 21st place with USD46 thousand in 2024.

PAKISTAN: EXPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS (HSCODE 44) BY COUNTRY(2020 – 2024)

USD '000

Rank	Importers	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Afghanistan	32,865	26,995	27,020	31,028	36,062
2	Kenya	0	8	845	2,422	4,796
3	Djibouti	0	38	864	346	2,145
4	Egypt	0	2	1,014	1,610	1,183
5	Brazil	0	0	0	214	534
6	United Arab Emirates	624	1,005	816	427	412
7	Mozambique	0	0	3	27	371
8	Peru	0	0	0	68	362
9	Kuwait	155	214	86	409	340
10	Ecuador	13	14	0	104	212
21	Malaysia	90	101	64	20	40
	Others	2,277	2,073	2,060	1,684	1,683
	Total	36,024	30,452	32,772	38,360	48,143

Source: ITC Stats

*Malaysia ranked 21st from 86 countries

PAKISTAN: EXPORT OF FURNITURE (HSCODE 9403) BY COUNTRY (2020 – 2024)

USD '000

Rank	Importers	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Germany	25	2,228	3,917	2,505	1,980
2	United States of America	1,083	2,535	3,771	2,454	1,838
3	United Kingdom	425	794	1,073	954	824
4	United Arab Emirates	1,586	374	85	137	439
5	Canada	131	232	358	319	280
6	Spain	13	134	276	179	160
7	Qatar	395	161	97	23	141
8	Nigeria	0	0	0	0	126
9	France	15	40	10	45	119
10	Tanzania, United Republic of	19	11	26	58	97
21	Malaysia	33	16	72	27	46
	Others	1,091	1,724	3,712	2,761	1,228
	Total	4,783	8,232	13,325	9,436	7,233

Source: ITC Stats

*Malaysia ranked 21st from 91 countries



PAKISTAN'S IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

Despite its immense potential, Pakistan's timber industry remains constrained by structural inefficiencies, regulatory hurdles and environmental challenges. As a rapidly growing and urbanising population fuels demand for construction and furniture, Pakistan relies heavily on timber imports due to severe depletion of its domestic forest reserves. Pakistan's import of timber and timber products in 2024 decreased by 10% to USD123.4 million over the previous corresponding period. That year, Pakistan imported mainly sawntimber, fibreboard and veneer totalled at USD85.7 million, USD8.8 million and USD6.2 million respectively.

PAKISTAN: IMPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS (2020 – 2024)

USD '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sawntimber	101,022	109,558	109,526	93,141	85,740
Fibreboard	25,938	25,324	18,187	13,156	8,775
Veneer	3,132	3,986	5,071	4,978	6,246
Furniture	6,706	9,115	8,129	6,322	5,853
Builders' joinery and carpentry	5,455	6,771	5,916	3,704	3,745
Logs	13,332	10,186	6,882	6,685	3,372
Plywood	2,532	3,556	2,460	1,443	1,201
Particleboard & Chipboard	902	1,347	1,004	662	833
Wooden frames	53	96	40	48	36
Mouldings	610	605	139	97	13
Others	8,263	9,469	8,441	6,725	7,561
Total	167,945	180,013	165,795	136,961	123,375

Source: ITC Stats

Germany was the major supplying country of timber and timber products (HS44) for Pakistan with imports valued at USD23.3 million, followed by the USA (USD18.2 million) and China (USD15.4 million). Meanwhile, Malaysia was placed fourth as an exporter to Pakistan with exports valued at USD11.0 million, a decrease of 30% from USD15.7 million in 2023. As for furniture supply (HS9403) to Pakistan, in 2024, China was the top exporter with a value of USD4.5 million, followed by the USA (USD416 thousand) and Italy (USD196 thousand) respectively. Malaysia was ranked at 8th place as a furniture exporter to Pakistan with exports valued at USD66 thousand.

PAKISTAN: IMPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS (HSCODE 44) BY COUNTRY (2020 – 2024)

USD '000

Exporters	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Germany	20,226	20,969	25,623	24,637	23,348
United States of America	34,364	29,067	23,766	21,004	18,173
China	18,557	21,145	18,134	14,625	15,429
Malaysia	18,237	20,559	18,674	15,655	10,980
Sweden	4,005	7,550	12,798	15,060	10,807
Canada	13,890	10,722	7,267	6,855	6,705
Austria	10,442	8,826	8,179	5,778	5,860
Romania	5,827	7,602	6,041	3,010	3,769
Finland	824	800	2,281	2,985	3,063
Congo	1,803	3,085	4,523	3,838	2,629
Others	33,061	40,574	30,377	17,190	16,760
Total	161,239	170,898	157,668	130,637	117,524

Source: ITC Stats

PAKISTAN: IMPORT OF FURNITURE (HS CODE 9403) BY COUNTRY (2020 – 2024)

USD '000

Rank	Exporters	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	China	4,470	6,312	5,057	4,760	4,456
2	United States of America	200	316	135	148	416
3	Italy	351	315	403	183	196
4	Türkiye	404	807	747	221	155
5	Korea, Republic of	7	34	22	5	144
6	United Arab Emirates	245	221	761	588	135
7	Portugal	-	5	2	1	87
8	Malaysia	101	73	152	4	66
9	Germany	118	140	220	86	32
10	Egypt	3	10	9	12	28
	Others	806	883	618	314	138
	Total	6,706	9,115	8,129	6,322	5,853

Source: ITC Stats

MALAYSIA'S EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO PAKISTAN

In 2024, export of Malaysian timber and timber products to Pakistan registered a decrease of 36% to RM51.1 million from RM79.3 million in 2023. Fibreboard was the main product exported at a total value of RM29.0 million, followed by sawntimber at RM19.9 million and BJC at RM656 thousand respectively.

MALAYSIA: EXPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS TO PAKISTAN (2020 - 2024)

FOB Value RM '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fibreboard	50,487	50,384	58,214	53,743	29,004
Sawntimber	22,184	27,598	29,145	22,732	19,930
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	1,675	2,235	2,613	1,020	656
Wooden Furniture	229	117	0	99	556
Plywood	345	386	666	331	366
Logs	46	220	106	132	281
Chipboard/Particleboard	845	457	280	0	0
Others	1,216	881	6,685	1,221	302
Grand Total	77,026	82,277	97,708	79,277	51,095

Source: MTIB & DOSM

MALAYSIA'S IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM PAKISTAN

In 2024, import of Malaysian timber and timber products from Pakistan showed an increase of 17% to RM327 thousand from RM280 thousand in the previous year. The main product imported from Pakistan was wooden furniture worth RM180 thousand. Apart from furniture, Malaysia also imported other timber products such as packing cases, tableware and kitchen ware, wood marquetry and other articles of wood from Pakistan worth RM147 thousand in 2024.

MALAYSIA: IMPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM PAKISTAN (2020 – 2024)

FOB Value RM '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden Furniture	103	41	211	127	180
Others	74	127	59	153	147
Grand Total	178	168	270	280	327

Source: MTIB & DOSM

IMPORT TARIFFS

Malaysia and Pakistan established the Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) on 8 November 2007. MPCEPA came into force on 1 January 2008. Under MPCEPA, the duties range from 0% to 20%, mostly for panel products such as veneer, chipboard/particleboard, fibreboard and plywood and also value-added timber products such as BJC and wooden furniture. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) import duty for timber products and furniture ranges between 0 – 35%. Details of Pakistan's import duties on timber and timber products under MPCEPA are as follows:

PAKISTAN: TARIFF DUTY

HS Code	Products	Malaysia - Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA)	
		Malaysia: Schedule of Tariff Commitment	Pakistan: Schedule of Tariff Commitment
4401	Fuel Wood	0	0
4402	Wood Charcoal	0	0
4403	Logs	0	0
4404	Hoopwood, Split polis, Piles	0	0
4405	Wood wool; Wood flour	0	0
4406	Railway sleepers	0	0
4407	Sawntimber	0	0
4408	Veneer	0	20
4409	Mouldings	0	20
4410	Chipboard/Particleboard	0	20
4411	Fibreboard	0	20
4412	Plywood	0	20
4413	Metalised wood or other densified wood	0	20
4414	Wooden Frame	0	20
4415	Packing cases	0	20
4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	0	20
4417	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	0	20
4418	Builders Joinery & Carpentry	0	10-20
4419	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	0	10
4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	0	10
4421	Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	0	10
9401	Seat and parts thereof	0-20	0-20
9403	Wooden Furniture	0	20

Source : JKDM Explorer, WTO stats & MITI FTA

PROSPECTS

In 2024, Pakistan's economy showed signs of stabilising after years of persistent macro-imbalances of which the real GDP growth was about 2.5%. Pakistan was under pressure from large fiscal and external deficits, tight foreign-exchange reserves, high inflation and a difficult business climate. Thus, the country had to introduce import and capital-flow restrictions which dampened domestic demand and supply chains. Turning to 2025, the outlook points to modest improvement but continued fragility. The World Bank in April 2025 projected growth around 2.7%, a slight uptick from 2024. On the reform agenda, Pakistan is under conditional programmes with IMF and World Bank aimed at strengthening fiscal discipline, external buffers and business-sector reform. Despite these efforts, structural issues remain deep-rooted, which means that growth is still far below potential and poverty reduction has stalled.



Based on a Fordaq report, Pakistan's timber industry is clearly shifting from raw materials toward value-addition and industrial modernisation due to import of logs (-39% from the EU) having plummeted while purchases of woodworking machinery (+162%) surged. This suggests local firms are investing in processing capacity to move up the value chain and retain more of the profit domestically. At the same time, there's marked changes in the panel products market. The volume of panel imports from Europe decreased but the value increased, indicating Pakistan is sourcing large volumes of commodity panels from cheaper global producers and reserving higher-end specialty panel for Europe market. This dual strategy underscores an opportunity for Pakistani manufacturers to focus on high value and specialty products.



Bedroom set that comes with wall mirror, dresser, bedside table

(Photo Source: Interwood Mobel)



Photo Source: Baba Jee Woodworking Machinery

Meanwhile, the furniture industry in Pakistan is entering a phase of notable potential, driven by growing domestic demand from urbanisation and rising incomes as well as global export opportunities. Pakistan has a legacy of skilled craftsmanship and rich wooden furniture traditions, particularly around hubs like Chiniot, Gujrat, Lahore and Karachi which gives it an edge in specialty and carved furniture. However, the industry faces structural barriers where many firms still use traditional, labour-intensive methods, lack modern machinery and automation and struggle with meeting international quality and design standards. To fully capitalise, the sector needs to embrace modern manufacturing techniques, contemporary design trends, digital marketing and e-commerce channels. The Pakistani furniture manufacturers would also benefit from supportive policy measures such as tax incentives, export facilitation and skills training.

Pakistan's timber market is clearly undergoing a structural transformation, shifting from dependence on raw log imports toward value added production and industrial modernisation. This transition creates a timely opening for Malaysian exporters to reposition themselves as suppliers of processed and engineered timber products rather than raw materials. By offering products such as veneered panels, MDF, laminated boards and furniture components, Malaysia can directly support Pakistan's upgrading of its timber and furniture manufacturing sectors. In addition, Malaysia's established reputation for sustainable and certified timber offers a competitive edge as Pakistan increasingly aligns with international quality and environmental standards, particularly in export-oriented furniture and green construction projects.

To successfully penetrate this market, Malaysian exporters should focus on building strategic alliances with Pakistani timber associations, manufacturers and distributors to ensure smoother regulatory compliance and efficient supply chains. Establishing local partnerships or finishing units in key industrial clusters like with members of All Pakistan Timber Trade Association (APTTA) can enhance market access and responsiveness to domestic demand. Further, engaging in trade fairs such as Pakistan Lifestyle Furniture Expo and International Furniture and Crafts Fair Pakistan and business missions will help to strengthen Malaysia's visibility and credibility in Pakistan's timber sector. In essence, Malaysia's pathway to deeper market integration lies in value, sustainability and collaboration of which aligning its export offerings with Pakistan's modernisation drive and growing appetite for high-quality and ready-to-use timber products.



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INDONESIA



Calls for a Simplification of Regulations

A number of forestry and economic experts are urging the Indonesian government to simplify regulations to revitalize the national timber industry and boost its competitiveness. They argue that the current rules are hindering investment, weakening production and reducing the forestry sector's contribution to the economy.

Specifically, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) forestry specialist, Sudarsono Sudomo, believes that the Timber Legality and Sustainability Verification System (SVLK) creates more costs than benefits and that many growers do not know they have to obtain the required certificate. He also refutes the claim that natural forest management is the main cause of deforestation, stating that land conversion is a more frequent cause.

“The experts’ call for action is supported by data showing a sharp decline in the industry. From 1990 to 2023 the number of active forestry businesses in natural forests has fallen from about 600 to just 250. According to Sudarsono, the industry also has a low capacity for job creation, absorbing only about 1,500 workers for every Rp1 trillion in investment.”

Forestry analyst, Petrus Gunarso, highlighted that the issue of timber traceability is often misunderstood, noting that international NGOs often label the conversion of natural forests to timber plantations as deforestation.

Sources: investor.id, 9 September 2025

MYANMAR



Exports of Veneer to India and China

Myanmar exports veneer sheets, sheets for plywood and other wood products to India and China. In 2024 Myanmar earned USD 9.61 million from exports to India and USD 19.34 million from exports to China according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade.

China remains a larger buyer of veneers for plywood manufacture from Myanmar, roughly double what India bought in 2024 (USD 19.34 million vs. USD 9.61 million). The figures are relatively modest. It is to be noted that the trade channel with India is almost all by sea while the trade with China is believed to be mainly through the informal cross-border trade.

Sources: tradingeconomics.com, 1 September 2025

VIETNAM



Viet Nam's Wood and Wood Products Exports Rise

According to the Viet Nam Customs Department, in July 2025 wood and wood products (W&WP) exports reached USD 1.47 billion, up 9% compared to June 2025 and up 6% year-on-year. Of this, Wood Product (WP) exports alone fetched USD 1 billion, up 9% compared to June 2025 and up 5% year-on-year.

In the first seven months of 2025, W&WP exports amounted to USD 9.6 billion, up 8% over the same period in 2024 with WP exports contributing USD 6.6 billion, up 8% over the same period in 2024.

W&WP exports to Middle East markets in July 2025 were recorded at USD 9.8 million, up 19% compared to July 2024. In the first 7 months of 2025 W&WP exports to the Middle East markets earned USD 67.7 million, up 38% over the same period in 2024.

In July 2025 bedroom furniture exports were valued at USD 182 million, down 6% compared to July 2024. In the first 7 months of 2025 exports of bedroom furniture brought in about USD 1.2 billion, up 5% over the same period in 2024.

In July 2025 W&WP imports to Viet Nam were valued at USD 309.5 million, up 17% compared to July 2024. In the first 7 months of 2025 W&WP imports were valued at USD 1.8 billion, up 19% over the same period in 2024.

Viet Nam's poplar imports in July 2025 were 37,600 cubic metres, worth USD 17.1 million, up 8% in volume and 9% in value compared to June 2025. Compared to July 2024 the value of imports decreased by 9% in volume but increased by 4% in value.

In the first seven months of 2025 poplar imports were estimated at 196,900 cubic metres, worth USD 84.9 million, down 10% in volume but up 2% in value year-on-year.

Viet Nam's imports of raw wood (log and lumber) from the ASEAN region in June 2025 dropped to 65,840 cubic metres, with a value of USD 13.43 million, down 29% in volume and 39% in value compared to May 2025.

In the first 6 months of 2025, imports of raw wood from ASEAN amounted to 441,390 cubic metres, with a value of USD 114.72 million, down 5% in volume and 9% in value over the same period in 2024.

Sources: www.fordaq.com, 4 September 2025

CHINA



China's Imports of Logs and Sawntimber Reached 4.029 Million Cubic Metres

According to the latest data, China imported 4.029 million cubic metres of logs and sawn timber in August 2025, representing a 0.2% year-on-year decrease. From January to August 2025, China imported 37.508 million cubic metres of logs and sawn timber, marking a 13.2% year-on-year decline.

In terms of value, China's imports of logs and sawn timber reached USD 818.4 million in August 2025, representing a 0.2% year-on-year decrease. From January to August 2025, the total import value of logs and sawn timber amounted to USD 7,597.5 million, marking a 16.4% year-on-year decline.

Sources: www.globalwood.org, 25 September 2025

JAPAN



Wooden High-Rise Buildings Increasing in Tohoku Amid Decarbonization Trend

Construction of wooden mid-rise and high-rise buildings, as well as the incorporation of wood into the interior and exterior of buildings, is gradually increasing in the Tohoku region.

Major real estate developers and construction companies are focusing on wood, driven by legislation and systems encouraging the use of domestically produced lumber created amid the trend of decarbonization.

The country's forestry industry, however, is losing industrial competitiveness because of the declining workforce and dwindling lumber prices.

The forestry industry is trying to take advantage of the business opportunity by adopting digital technologies and improving supply chains.

"Mid-rise and high-rise wooden buildings are shifting from the phase of assessing whether they are technologically viable to the phase of whether they can be chosen by clients and users," said Hiroyuki Adachi, managing director of Shelter, a wooden architecture construction firm in the city of Yamagata, during a seminar in Sendai in July.

According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, construction began for a total of 59 mid-rise wooden buildings with between four and nine stories across Japan in fiscal 2024, which ended in March this year.

"If local businesses start taking on the challenge of constructing wooden buildings using locally produced lumber, the system of distributing lumber and returning the profits to forests will change," Adachi said.

Attempts to use more wood in buildings spread after the government took legislative actions to encourage such moves amid growing interest in decarbonization and sustainability.

In 2010, Japan enacted a law to promote the use of wood materials in public buildings. The law was amended in 2021 to expand the scope of promoting wood use to buildings in general.

Along with the development of highly heat-resistant and durable wooden construction materials and accelerated technological innovations, major real estate developers and construction firms are ramping up the use of wood.

"In mid-rise buildings (of roughly three to five stories), we are beginning to see a price advantage in wooden structures and wooden materials," said a Mitsubishi Estate official. "Another advantage is that the construction period is shorter compared with RC buildings.

"We hope to achieve more results in high-rise buildings as well."

While the range of the use of wood expands, the forestry industry that supplies the material is facing challenges.

"The price gap between domestically produced wood and foreign wood is not that big," said Ryota Kajiware, head of the corporate planning office at Miyagijujo Group, a major forestry firm in Sendai that produces roughly 150,000 cubic meters of timber a year.

"The biggest weakness (of the domestic forestry industry) is its unstable supply system, attributable to the fact that many of the forestry firms are small."

Domestic timber prices temporarily rose during the global "wood shock" that began in 2021, but they have since stagnated.

The forestry industry has been hit by further problems including a decrease in housing construction — the mainstay of its business — and rising costs of producing lumber.

About 60% of man-made forests in Japan are 50 years old or older since saplings were first planted.

These forests are now ready for full-scale harvesting, but logging has stalled due to the declining profitability of the forestry industry. The reforestation rate of logged forests also remains low, at about 20% to 30%.

In order to achieve a stable supply of domestic lumber, Miyagijujo Group is working on establishing a traceability system to keep track of the logging process.

"The forestry industry has been an analog industry, meaning there is a lot of room for productivity improvement," Kajiware said. "By following the global trends of SDGs (sustainable development goals) and ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance), we hope to seize the opportunity by making use of Japan's strength of having a rich accumulation of man-made forests."

Sources: www.globalwood.org, 2 September 2025

AUSTRIA



Austrian Sawmill Industry Warns That EUDR Could Reduce Production by Up to 10%

"The Austrian sawmill industry has managed to stabilize sales and production despite a challenging economic environment," said DI Markus Schmölzer, Chairman of the Austrian Sawmill Industry, at the International Wood Day 2025. However, he cautioned that high energy, raw material, and labor costs, combined with a weak economic outlook, make optimism premature. Schmölzer emphasized the need for better economic policies, including lower labor-related costs and competitive energy prices.

KR Franz Teuschler, Chairman of the Austrian Timber Trade, noted mixed trends: while lower interest rates have slightly boosted construction activity, particularly large projects, demand in single-family housing remains weak. Export performance, however, has been strong: softwood lumber exports rose nearly 11% in the first half of the year, with Italy and Germany increasing purchases.

EUDR risks

Sawmills increased lumber production and expected a 2% rise in 2025. Schmölzer warned that the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), if implemented as planned, could cut production by up to 10%, as forest owners may suspend harvesting due to compliance costs and risks. This would affect the broader timber value chain, including wood components, furniture, panels, paper, and pellet production.

Bureaucracy without benefit

The EUDR requires companies to prove that timber and timber products are deforestation-free across the entire supply chain, creating significant administrative burdens. Schmölzer noted that thousands of reference numbers would need to be tracked for each batch, step, and delivery, producing unmanageable data. A Finnish study estimates costs at over €200 million for initial implementation and €65 million annually, with European costs potentially reaching billions without clear benefits.

The industry calls for the EUDR to be fundamentally revised or repealed and replaced with practical, risk-based measures.

Alternative solutions

The sector supports the goal of preventing deforestation but recommends targeted measures, such as a risk category for countries without deforestation concerns, like Austria, instead of applying broad EU-wide requirements. Risk-based controls, focused on specific products, regions, or actors, would ensure supply chains remain deforestation-free while reducing unnecessary bureaucracy.

Industry facts

Austria's sawmill industry includes over 1,000 mainly family-owned companies, employing around 10,000 people and generating €3 billion in production value in 2024. The timber trade counts around 4,500 members and is part of the largest construction and timber trade association in Austria. Overall, the Austrian wood industry employs over 25,000 people and generates products worth €9.28 billion, with an export surplus of €1.39 billion.

Sources: www.fordaq.com, 12 September 2025

FINLAND



Forest Industry Exports Remain Stable in 2024, Imports Rise

Finland's forest industry maintained steady export performance in 2024, with total exports reaching just under €12 billion, representing a real-term increase of nearly 1% compared with 2023. The sector accounted for approximately 17% of Finland's total goods exports.

Europe remained the dominant market, accounting for 60% of export revenues, while Asia contributed 21%. Germany, China, and the United States were the leading destinations, representing 11%, 10%, and 9% of total forest industry exports, respectively.

Exports of wood products reached over €3 billion, a 2% real-term increase. Sawn timber exports totaled 8.2 million cubic metres, generating close to €2 billion in revenue, up 7% from the previous year, with Egypt emerging as the main market.

Pulp and paper exports showed mixed results. Pulp shipments declined 9% to 4.1 million tonnes, with export value falling 5% to €2.6 billion. Paper exports increased 4% in volume to 2.7 million tonnes but saw a slight decrease in value (-1%). Paperboard remained the largest export

category in terms of revenue, reaching €3.3 billion (+5%), with 3.6 million tonnes shipped (+9%), mainly to Germany and the United States.

Imports of forest industry products and wood rose notably. Finland imported 5.5 million cubic metres of wood, a 10% increase from 2023. Pulpwood made up 58% of imports, wood chips 30%, and logs 2%, with the remaining 10% consisting of firewood and by-product wood. The value of imported wood exceeded €0.4 billion (+9%). Sawn timber imports increased by 11%, though the value fell slightly to €37 million (-1%), with Europe accounting for 80% of import value.

Sweden became Finland's largest trading partner in terms of forest industry imports (€0.29 billion), followed by Estonia (€0.23 billion), whose imports declined by nearly 18%. Most roundwood imports originated from Latvia, while sawn timber was primarily sourced from Estonia.

Sources: www.fordaq.com, 17 September 2025

EUROPEAN UNION



Set to Delay Anti-Deforestation Regulation Once More

The European Commission plans to postpone the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) for another year, extending the timeline for companies and trade partners to adjust to the new rules.

The regulation was originally meant to apply from December 30, 2024, but was pushed back to the end of 2025. Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall confirmed on Tuesday that the Commission is preparing to grant a further extension, pointing to delays in finalizing the IT system that underpins the traceability and reporting requirements.

Formal notifications have been sent to the Council of the EU and the European Parliament regarding the new timetable.

Roswall stressed that the move was not linked to concerns raised by countries including the United States, Japan or Malaysia, nor to the recently concluded trade discussions with Indonesia, the largest global supplier of palm oil. She added that the Commission will continue talks with EU ministers on simplifying certain aspects of the regulation.

Sources: www.fordaq.com, 23 September 2025

BRAZIL



With AI Forestry Sector Begins a New Era

The wood industry is one of the pillars of the Brazilian economy with projected investments exceeding BRL105 billion by 2028 according to the Brazilian Tree Industry Association (IBÁ). The sector generates 690,000 direct jobs and approximately 2 million indirect jobs.

Facing challenges such as monitoring, wildfires, pests, logistics, environmental compliance and climate impacts, digital transformation is essential to ensure efficiency and sustainability in forest management. In this context, Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools are emerging as a strategic support for forestry operations. Intelligent assistants streamline data analysis, while AI agents integrate systems and autonomously execute processes, enhancing operational efficiency and accuracy.

Practical applications include automatic pest detection through drones and sensors, continuous monitoring for wildfire prevention and the use of imagery and historical data to estimate growth, timber volume and forecast harvests thereby reducing costs and replacing manual surveys. Among national initiatives, the Netflora methodology, developed by Embrapa, stands out. It employs drones and AI to identify species in the Amazon with up to 95% accuracy, expanding forest mapping capacity from 10,000 to 1 million hectares per year thus supporting timber volume estimates, carbon stock assessments and harvest planning. To achieve such progress in an efficient and secure manner specialised GenAI platforms are required. These platforms combine frameworks and enterprise services to accelerate implementation, ensure data privacy, process large data volumes and allow scalability and continuous updates. By adopting GenAI the Brazilian forestry sector can strengthen competitiveness and consolidate sustainable practices that are essential for its future, balancing productivity, environmental protection and technological innovation.

Sources: www.itto.int, 1 September 2025

CANADA



Housing Starts Flat in First Half of Year

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. says growth in overall housing starts was flat during the first half of the year compared with 2024, though there were significant regional differences.

The agency says cities like Calgary, Edmonton, Montréal, Ottawa and Halifax built homes at paces that were either at or near records or in line with historical averages in the first half of the year, led by the construction of rental apartments.

However, slowdowns in Canada's two most expensive real estate markets weighed on the overall number of starts.

Vancouver saw a decline in housing starts during the first half of the year compared with 2024, while Toronto was on pace for the lowest total annual housing starts in 30 years.

"While the increase in rental construction in the first half of 2025 was encouraging, the ongoing construction slowdown in the home ownership market poses risks to future housing supply, workforce retention, and affordability," Tania Bourassa-Ochoa, CMHC's deputy chief economist, said in a press release.

CMHC says homebuilding activity in Toronto fell to its lowest point since 1996 on a per-capita basis, mainly due to a 60 percent drop in condominium starts. The decline came amid weaker investor demand for condos during the first half of the year, leaving projects less feasible and more prone to cancellations or delays.

The agency said builders want to see construction costs and development charges lowered to "ease condominium prices and improve project viability."

In Vancouver, condo starts fell 13.4 per cent during the first half of the year, with weak pre-construction sales resulting in paused and cancelled projects. CMHC says development charges were a significant barrier to homebuilding in the city, but it noted new provincial regulations are set to take effect next year, allowing for the deferral of about two-thirds of development charges until occupancy.

Sources: www.fordaq.com, 10 September 2025

UNITED STATES



Softwood Lumber Board Pushes for More Demand

The Softwood Lumber Board (SLB), an industry-funded initiative dedicated to promoting the benefits and uses of softwood lumber in construction, has set an ambitious goal: to generate 2.9 billion board feet of incremental annual lumber demand by 2035.

In a recent post on its website, SLB outlined its strategy for achieving this target, emphasizing opportunities in “high-growth” segments such as multifamily housing, affordable housing, educational facilities, warehouses, and distribution centers. Mass timber is also highlighted as a key area for future growth.

“SLB notes that lumber building systems could allow for taller structures in both multifamily and nonresidential construction. It cites Sacramento’s 1430 Q project, which pushes light-frame construction to eight stories, and the proposed 55-story Marcus Center mass timber skyscraper in Milwaukee, which would more than double the height of the current tallest hybrid timber tower, Ascent.”

Beyond targeting high-growth market segments, SLB is working to reduce barriers to wood construction, such as code compliance and insurance issues, while forming alliances to enter markets currently dominated by competing materials.

By leveraging these strategies, SLB aims to expand the adoption of softwood lumber in U.S. construction, positioning wood as a competitive and sustainable building material for a range of applications.

Sources: www.fordaq.com, 30 September 2025

CAMEROON



Timber Exports Rose and Defied Heavier Taxes

Cameroon’s timber and forestry product exports generated a total of 140.4 billion XAF (in revenue in 2024, an increase of nearly 4 billion XAF from the previous year. According to the 2024 National Accounts report from the National Institute of Statistics (INS), this marks the second-highest revenue volume from these products in six years, trailing only the 147.6 billion XAF recorded in 2021.

These figures show that a tightening of forestry taxation by Cameroonian authorities has not dampened the industry’s dynamism, despite complaints from operators. The government has been progressively increasing wood export taxes as part of a strategy to prepare for a planned log export ban across the CEMAC zone (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, and the Central African Republic), which is to be finalized by 2028.

As a result, the export tax on logs has risen sharply from 17.5% of the timber’s FOB value in 2017 to 75% in 2024. The Cameroon Timber Industry Group (GFBC) estimates that the export tax on sawn wood, a product of primary processing, also increased by 165% between 2016 and 2023. These measures, officially aimed at encouraging secondary and tertiary wood processing within the country, have been met with resistance from forestry operators, who at one point threatened to suspend exports.

In a letter to the Prime Minister dated December 23, 2022, the GFBC, which represents 70% of the country’s timber exporters, warned of a “deluge” that would endanger companies’ “colossal investments.” The group threatened to “observe a strike action, which will first manifest by the suspension of customs declarations and will continue with a technical layoff of company personnel. For we are, as of this day, fiscally strangled.”

The government, however, did not respond to the plea, and the threatened strike by the GFBC never materialized. Log and processed wood exports continued and even intensified, according to the official statistics released by the INS.

Sources: www.businessincameroon.com, 11 September 2025



Maersk Asia Pacific Market Update - August 2025

Shifting Trade Dynamics Across Asia-Pacific

Ocean freight market remains dynamic and complex. The region continues to be affected by global trade shifts, equipment imbalances, and seasonal congestion risks. According to the latest Alphaliner report, Transpacific and Asia-Europe capacity remains tight due to extended Cape of Good Hope rerouting, which adds significant voyage time and strains vessel availability.

Maersk Network Maintains Industry-Leading Reliability

Amid these disruptions, Maersk continues to offer schedule reliability above industry average. According to the May 2025 Sea-Intelligence report, Maersk was the most reliable global carrier, achieving a 76% reliability score - more than 10 percentage points above the industry average of 66%. The Gemini cooperation continues to perform strongly, with May reliability at 91%.

Proactive Actions to Protect Supply Chain Stability

To enhance service continuity and buffer against European port congestions, Maersk is introducing changes to its AE5 rotation from August. The revised service will now call at Aarhus and Gothenburg, with Hamburg moved ahead of Bremerhaven. These adjustments are designed to minimise volatility by leveraging our modular East-West network and optimising terminal capabilities, particularly at APM Terminals in Aarhus. This change enables Maersk to redeploy shuttle vessels and address congestion risks across Europe. While Red Sea disruptions, peak-season congestion, and typhoon season in the North-West Pacific continue to pose risks, Maersk's dynamic capacity planning and strong terminal partnerships allow us to be well positioned to respond. Customers are encouraged to stay connected with their local Maersk teams for up-to-date information and planning support.

Maersk_31 Aug 2025

Houthis send threatening warnings to 64 shipowners

Yemen's Houthi rebel group has issued formal warnings to 64 global shipowners, signalling a new phase in its campaign against Red Sea shipping.

The notices, described as "prepenalty" warnings, accused the targeted shipowners of violating a self-proclaimed blockade of Israeli ports, stating that these fleets are now "prohibited from transiting the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait, Gulf of Aden, and Arabian Sea," and may be attacked "wherever they fall within reach".

This comes one month after the Houthis sank two Greek-owned bulk carriers, *Magic Seas* and *Eternity C*, leading the international Combined Maritime Task Force (CMT) to classify the threat level to Israel-linked shipping as critical and the overall risk to shipping as severe.

The Houthis have not revealed the names of the 64 shipowners yet, who risk seeing their insurance bills leap if their identities are made known.

Since November 2023, the Houthis have attacked dozens of merchant ships in the Red Sea, actions that NGO Human Rights Watch has found to constitute war crimes.

A joint statement from the International Chamber of Shipping, BIMCO, INTERTANKO, INTERCARGO, and the European Community of Shipowner Associations described the attacks last month as "callous", urging global stakeholders to protect seafarers and uphold the freedom of navigation in this vital sea lane.

Arsenio Dominguez, the secretary-general of the International Maritime Organisation, has also voiced grave concern, emphasising the need for urgent multilateral action to ensure maritime security.

Slash247_7 Aug 2025



Credit Photo: Ansarullah Media Centre/AFP

US Customs gears up to enforce new port fees on Chinalinked vessels

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) has been designated to collect a new fee regime targeting China-linked vessels, as authorised by a US Trade Representative ruling. The rules are structured for rollout starting October 14, 2025, and will apply to both Chinese-owned/operators and Chinese-built ships, with non-payment potentially blocking cargo operations and port clearance via imminent operational bans.

Under the finalised policy, Chinese-owned or operated vessels will be charged starting at \$50 per net ton, escalating to \$140 per ton by April 2028. Non-Chinese operators of Chinese-built ships face lower fees—starting at \$18 per ton or \$120 per container, rising to \$33 per ton or \$250 per container, whichever yields more.

The fees are assessed on a per-voyage (or rotation) basis, capped at five chargeable port rotations per vessel per year, and apply only at the first port of call. Exemptions are granted for short-sea shipping, vessels under size thresholds, U.S.-owned ships, ballast voyages, and specialized export carriers.

CBP has confirmed that a new Pay.gov payment portal is under development for remittances. Failure to pay the charged service fee will risk operational denial—from offloading cargo to port entry and exit clearance.

This implementation follows industry feedback and revisions to earlier April proposals that had envisaged multi-million-dollar flat fees per call on Chinese-built tankers. A scaled-back tiered structure emerged after objections over feasibility and trade impact.

Supporters of the controversial ruling argue the measure helps counter Chinese dominance in global shipping, elevate US maritime security, and fuel domestic shipbuilding. Critics—including the World Shipping Council and major car-makers—warn it could raise consumer prices and shrink trade volumes at smaller US ports.

Splash247_5 Aug 2025



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APM Terminals seals \$1billion ports deal in India

Maersk's port operating arm, APM Terminals, has signed a memorandum of understanding with India's Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board to invest 9,000 crore (around \$1.1bn) in the development of three key ports in the state.

The agreement, inked in the presence of chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, covers the upgrading of the Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam and Mulapeta ports, along with supporting infrastructure. APM Terminals will bring in modern cargo handling systems, develop new terminals, and take charge of operations under the deal.

The project is expected to generate around 10,000 direct jobs, with Naidu describing the partnership as a major step towards making Andhra Pradesh the "eastern gateway" of India's maritime trade and a logistics hub for the region.

The chief minister directed APM Terminals to prepare a comprehensive logistics plan to link the ports with road, rail, inland waterways and air networks, aimed at reducing transport costs and improving connectivity. He also reiterated the state's plan to establish a port or harbour every 50 km along its 1,053 km coastline to strengthen trade flows.

The memorandum highlights both Andhra Pradesh's ambition to leverage its long coastline and Maersk's growing interest in India. APM Terminals chief Keith Svendsen has previously said the group sees an investment pipeline of about \$5bn in ports, terminals and related infrastructure as part of a long-term partnership with the country.

Earlier this year, Maersk signed a separate memorandum with Cochin Shipyard to explore opportunities in ship repair and shipbuilding, with the first Maersk vessel expected to undergo repairs there in 2025. The move aligns with India's push to climb into the world's top 10 maritime nations by 2030 and top five by 2047.

India has attracted other global carriers, with MSC, the world's largest boxship operator, also eyeing multiple opportunities in the country, from container terminals and shipbuilding to maintenance, container manufacturing and vessel partnerships, as well as policy reforms aimed at boosting competitiveness.

Splash 247_22 Aug 2025



OOCL admits upcoming US port fees will have 'relatively large impact'

Orient Overseas (International) Ltd (OOIL), the listed entity of Hong Kong container line OOCL, has conceded that October's likely introduction of extra port fees for Chinese-linked tonnage could be painful.

OOCL, owned by China's COSCO, posted its interims yesterday in which it noted in a release that the potential extra port charges levied by the US on Chinese carriers will have a "relatively large impact".

In April, the US Trade Representative detailed plans to start charging China-linked tonnage calling at US ports from the middle of October this year, in a bid to both curb China's dominance in the field of shipbuilding as well as boost domestic shipyard capabilities.

Both OOCL and parent COSCO, part of the Ocean Alliance, have already started taking action – launching transpacific services, for instance, that avoid the US and make for Mexico instead.

OOIL did add that ongoing disruption could actually help boost its bottom line.

"[A]s global trade patterns shift to becoming more regional, market divergence may occur, or there may be delayed or deferred responses due to extended or restructured supply chains, all of which may be potentially creating opportunities for shipping companies to refine their strategies in segmented markets," OOIL stated, adding: "Geopolitical uncertainties still significantly influence the shipping market. If the situation in the Red Sea was a defining factor which contributed to the strong performance of the container shipping market in 2024, then the ongoing changes in tariff policies and trade disputes have undoubtedly played a decisive role in shaping market trends in the first half of 2025."

OOIL posted stronger interim earnings yesterday. Revenue for the first half of 2025 came in at \$4.88bn, up 5% from the same period in 2024, while profit attributable to equity holders rose nearly 15% to \$954m.

SeaTrade-Maritime_25 Aug 2025

Houthis launch northernmost attack on commercial ship

The Houthi targeted Eastern Pacific Shipping tanker *Scarlet Ray* with a ballistic missile on 31 August, significantly extending the northern reach of the group's attacks in the Red Sea.

While the Yemeni group reported the attack as a successful direct hit in its media channels, the vessel's master reported a splash in close proximity to the vessel followed by a loud noise. With no visible damage to the ship, it continued underway and reported all crew as safe.

The location of the attack 40 nautical miles southwest off of Yanbu in Saudi Arabia is the northernmost Houthi attack on merchant shipping, extending the northern reach by around 370 nautical mile.

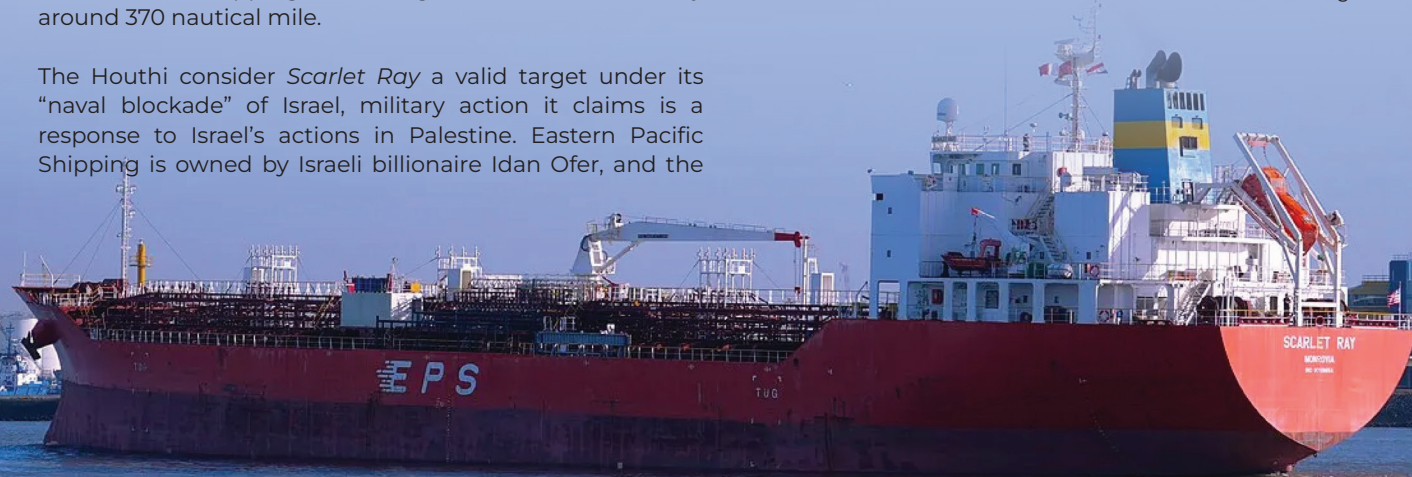
The Houthi consider *Scarlet Ray* a valid target under its "naval blockade" of Israel, military action it claims is a response to Israel's actions in Palestine. Eastern Pacific Shipping is owned by Israeli billionaire Idan Ofer, and the

group has said that it will target ships that have called Israeli ports and Israel-affiliated ships within the reach of its armed forces.

The Joint Maritime Information Center (JMIC) issued a reminder to the maritime industry "that the Houthis possess the capability to target commercial vessels well into the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden."

JMIC said the threat to ships with links to Israel is assessed as critical, as the group is likely to take any opportunity to attack such vessels in the coming weeks. For all shipping, the threat level from Houthi is assessed as severe.

SeaTrade-Maritime_31 Aug 2025



Malaysian owner MISC mulls lay-ups as LNG carrier market remains soft

MISC Berhad announced that it may lay up some of its LNG carriers as the global market outlook stays weak for the rest of 2025. The company highlighted that charter rates are expected to remain soft due to continued fleet expansion and subdued tonne-mile demand. During its second-quarter results briefing, the Malaysian energy shipping group said it is actively exploring strategic options,

including vessel lay-ups and redeployment opportunities for ships currently off charter. This reflects the challenging environment in the LNG shipping sector, where oversupply and muted demand continue to weigh on profitability. MISC's cautious approach signals the need for operators to adapt strategies as the market struggles to rebalance.

tradewindsnews_25 Aug 2025



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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m³)	% change July 25/ August 25
	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change		
Sawn Timber	42,907	11	5,005	25	732	28	499	-29	4,122	-11	53,266	10
MDF	11,379	54	0	0	1,584	-16	588	61	30	100	13,580	41
Mouldings	16,601	-5	2	-90	1,253	-32	1,529	-30	289	1	19,675	-10
Plywood	5,747	474	0	0	126	60	549	38	10,107	16	16,529	63
Veneer	253	2	0	0	43	100	0	0	432	-30	253	2
Particleboard	14,961	-2	0	0	17	-41	0	0	7,872	6	22,850	0
Total	91,848	15	5,007	24	3,754	-15	3,165	-13	22,852	5	126,627	11

LOGS

The timber price in August 2025 for heavy hardwood logs like Chengal was recorded at RM3,220/tonne, increased by 10.3%, while Balau was priced at RM3,710/tonne and Red Balau at RM2,128/tonne. For medium hardwoods like Keruing, Mengkulang and Tualang the price remained the same compared to last month at RM1,930/tonne, RM1,656/tonne and RM1,383/tonne respectively. Meanwhile the price for Kempas increased by 0.7% to RM1,541/tonne while the price for Kapur increased by 4.8% to RM1,840/tonne. For light hardwood, the price of Dark Red Meranti was RM1,725 increased by 1.5% while Red Meranti's price increased to RM1,950/tonne and Jelutong increased to RM1,215/tonne. Meanwhile, the price for Ramin decreased by 46.2% to RM1,050/tonne. For other species the price remained the same compared to last month. As for rubberwood, the price remained the same at RM 203/tonne as compared to last month.

PLYWOODS

In August 2025, the Plywood price segment remained the same compared to the previous month. The prices were RM26.00/sheet for 6mm ones, RM38.00/sheet for the 9mm ones and RM48.50/sheet for 12mm ones.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD

In August 2025, the MDF price segment remained the same compared to the previous month. The prices for boards of 4mm thickness were RM12.90/piece, those of 6mm thickness were RM23.95/piece, those of 9mm thickness were RM31.70/piece while those of 12mm thickness were RM37.80.

SAWNTIMBER

In August 2025, the price for Chengal sawntimber remained at RM5,473/m³ in the General Market Specification (GMS) category, while the price for scantlings remained at RM6,356/m³ and the price for strips remained at RM2,754/m³. This was followed by Balau with its GMS grade price remaining at RM3,043/m³ and scantlings remaining at RM4,590/m³. As for medium hardwood, timber species such as Keruing remained at RM3,119/m³ for GMS, scantlings (RM2,495/m³) and strips (RM2,354/m³). Meanwhile, for Kempas, the price for GMS was RM2,177/m³, scantlings (RM2,366/m³) and strips (RM1,783/m³). The price of rubberwood sawntimber in August 2025 amounted to RM1,235/m³ for 1"×1", RM1,320/m³ for 2"×2", RM1,400/m³ for 3"×3" and RM1,460/m³ for 4"×4.

TRADE IN MALAYSIA – AUGUST 2025

In August 2025, commerce between Sabah and Sarawak with Peninsular Malaysia totalled at 3,490 m³, with a value of RM4.83 million. Sabah remain the top contributor to the trade value for Peninsular, recording a trade value of RM1.99 million (934 m³) for plywood, followed by sawntimber (RM0.65million) and Veneer (RM0.42 million). Meanwhile for Sarawak, the trade value for Plywood was RM1.21 million and sawntimber, RM0.55 million.



***AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**
RINGGIT MALAYSIA
AUGUST 2025

SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m ³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	3,220	5,473	2,754		6,356
Balau	3,710	3,043	1,718		4,590
Red Balau	2,128	2,737	2,101		2,419
Merbau	2,850	3,754	3,225		3,725
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,116	1,326	1,128		1,243
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	1,930	3,119	2,460		2,495
Kempas	1,541	2,177	1,783		2,366
Kapur	1,840	1,746	1,271		1,685
Mengkulang	1,656	1,192	1,365		1,871
Tualang	1,383	1,907	1,518		1,730
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,725	2,083	1,942		3,319
Red Meranti	1,950	1,777	2,016		2,542
Yellow Meranti	1,627	1,531	1,365		1,801
White Meranti	1,683	2,024	1,801		1,600
Mersawa	1,425	2,013	1,306		2,154
Nyato	1,357	1,774	1,807		1,201
Sepetir	1,177	1,801	1,601		1,283
Jelutong	1,215	2,119	1,571		1,819
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,223	1,266	1,083		1,112
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD Hevea brasiliensis	LOGS/ton 203	SAWN TIMBER/m ³			
		1" x 1"	2" x 2"	3" x 3"	4" x 4"
		1,235	1,320	1,400	1,460
PLYWOOD 4' x 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	19.50	26.00	38.00		48.50
MDF 4' x 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm		12mm
	12.90	23.95	31.70		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

	JULY 2025		AUGUST 2025		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	JULY/AUGUST	JULY/AUGUST
Sabah						
Logs	5,000	1,500	0	0	100	100
Sawn Timber	321	677	555	650	73	-4
Plywood	1,567	3,334	934	1,999	-40	-40
Veneer	510	911	245	425	-52	-53
Sarawak						
Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawn Timber	552	794	402	548	-27	-31
Plywood	2,021	1,770	1,355	1,211	-33	-32
Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0

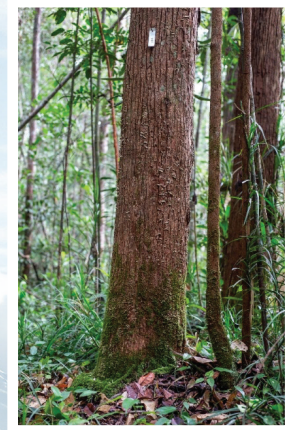
Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia
 Tabulated: Malaysian Timber Industry Board

RAMIN

(*Gonystylus spp.*)

From Forest to Furniture

Prepared by: Encik Mohamad Firdaus Abas



Ramin refers to a group of valuable hardwood under the genus *Gonystylus*, belonging to the family Thymelaeaceae. These species are native to the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia, particularly Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines. Known for its elegant light colour, fine texture, and exceptional workability, Ramin has long been regarded as a premium timber for decorative and high-end manufacturing.

However, decades of overexploitation and habitat degradation have placed many *Gonystylus* species under significant threat. Today, Ramin is listed under CITES Appendix II, meaning its international trade is strictly regulated to ensure sustainable use and conservation of the species.

Taxonomy of Ramin

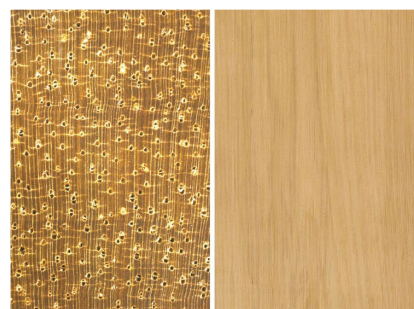
Kingdom : Plantae
 Clade : Tracheophytes
 Clade : Angiosperms
 Clade : Eudicots
 Order : Malvales
 Family : Thymelaeaceae
 Genus : *Gonystylus*
 Species : *Gonystylus bancanus*, *Gonystylus macrophyllus*,
Gonystylus affinis, *Gonystylus brunnescens*,
Gonystylus beccarianus

General Characteristics

Ramin (*Gonystylus spp.*) is a medium to large-sized tropical hardwood typically reaching heights of 30–45 m, with straight, cylindrical boles up to 1 m in diameter. The bark varies from greyish to reddish-brown and is often fissured. The wood is clearly differentiated between sapwood and heartwood. Sapwood is pale yellow to nearly white, while the heartwood is creamy yellow to light straw, darkening over time. It features a fine, even texture mostly straight grain, occasionally shallowly interlocked. These attributes give Ramin its smooth and refined appearance – ideal for finishing and decorative applications.

Wood Anatomy

Ramin (*Gonystylus spp.*) contributes significantly to its fine texture and uniform appearance. The vessels are medium-sized, mostly solitary, or in small radial multiples, and are evenly distributed throughout the wood. Parenchyma is predominantly apotracheal diffuse, occasionally scanty paratracheal distribution. The rays are fine, closely spaced, and uniseriate, which adds to the even texture of the wood. Growth rings are indistinct or faint, making them difficult to discern. This structure contributes to excellent machining characteristics, producing a consistently smooth surface and enhancing its desirability for high-quality furniture and decorations.



Mechanical Properties

Ramin is classified as a light to medium hardwoods, with an air-dry density ranging from 560–750 kg/m³ and a Strength Group 5 (SG5) classification. It demonstrates moderate bending strength and good compressive strength, though its shock resistance is relatively low. The wood also exhibits moderately high shrinkage, which means that proper seasoning and kiln drying are essential to minimise warping and distortion. Despite these limitations, Ramin offers adequate mechanical strength for use in furniture manufacturing, interior joinery, and light construction where dimensional stability and aesthetic quality are prioritised.

Property	Value
Density (air-dry)	560 – 750 kg/m ³
Modulus of Elasticity	~ 9,800 Mpa
Modulus of Rupture	~ 74 Mpa
Compressive Strength (parallel to grain)	~ 41 Mpa
Shear Strength	~ 8.5 Mpa
Janka Hardness	3,330 N

Natural Durability

Ramin is rated as a non-durable to slightly durable wood. It is vulnerable to fungal decay and termite attack, particularly when exposed to damp or outdoor environments. Its resistance to marine borers is also poor, making it unsuitable for marine and coastal applications without additional protection. For any use in ground contact or exterior conditions, preservative treatment is strongly recommended to enhance its service life.

Machining Durability

Ramin is generally regarded as an easy-to-work hardwood, responding well to both hand tools and machine operations. Its fine texture allows for clean and smooth surfaces during processing.

Planing and shaping

Produces smooth, even finishes with minimal surface defects

Nailing and screwing

Good holding properties, though pre-boring is advisable to reduce the risk of splitting

Finishing: Excellent finishing qualities

the wood accepts paints, stains, and polishes effectively, resulting in high-quality decorative surfaces

Gluing

Bonds well with most common adhesives, providing strong and reliable joints

These qualities make Ramin a preferred choice for applications requiring precise workmanship and refined surface appearance.



Uses

Thanks to its attractive appearance and excellent workability, Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) has long been favored for a wide range of applications.

Furniture and cabinetry

especially in fine furniture where a smooth, uniform finish is desirable.

Interior joinery

including doors, window frames, moldings, and paneling.

Toys and turnery

valued for its fine texture and non-irritant surface.

Plywood and veneer

commonly sliced into veneer sheets for decorative purposes.

Picture frames, dowels, and blind slats

making use of its pale color and consistent finish.

Musical instruments

occasionally used for parts that require a fine-textured, lightweight wood.

However, due to trade restrictions under CITES and growing sustainability concerns, the availability of Ramin in international markets has declined. As a result, manufacturers often turn to alternative species, such as other light-colored tropical hardwoods and plantation timbers, as substitutes.

Ramin and CITES Protection

Due to extensive exploitation and high international demand, many *Gonystylus* species have experienced severe population declines in their natural habitats. To ensure their conservation, all species of *Gonystylus* (Ramin) were listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 2004. This listing means that international trade of Ramin timber and its products is strictly regulated and allowed only when accompanied by valid CITES permits. Exporting countries (range-states) are also required to set annual export quotas with Malaysia has been set at 5,000 m³ in 2025 based on sustainable harvest levels, ensuring that trade does not threaten the long-term survival of the species. The regulation aims to prevent illegal logging and promote sustainable forest management while still allowing controlled legal trade from verified sources.



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5 SEPTEMBER 2025

Malaysia Furniture Furnishings Market (MFFM) 2025

4 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2025

Program Madani Rakyat 2025 Negeri Kedah

9 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

Malaysian Skills Certification Programme, Practical Assessment Test Session, WISDEC Sabah

8 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Wooden Furniture Design Course, WISDEC Sabah

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

Malaysia Cleaning Day Programme 2025 MTIB