

# Tropical Timber Market Report

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The ITTO *Tropical Timber Market (TTM) Report*, an output of the ITTO Market Information Service (MIS), is published in English every two weeks with the aim of improving transparency in the international tropical timber market. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of ITTO. News may be reprinted provided that the ITTO *TTM Report* is credited. A copy of the publication should be sent to [ti@itto.int](mailto:ti@itto.int).

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## Top story

### Calls for delay in EUDR implementation

A number of trade associations and some politicians, many representing interests inside the EU, have raised concerns on the timetable for implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation.

The case for a delay in EUDR implementation was made in a joint declaration by six European organisations and concerns about the implementation timetable were also raised by 19 wood trade organisations in France.

While calls are being made for a delay to EUDR implementation there appear to be very significant legal and political obstacles to these calls being acted upon.

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## Central and West Africa

### Demand in Asian markets continues to improve

Producers report there has been a slight increase in demand in Asian markets and for a wider range of species than in recent month with more interest being shown in movingui while demand for ovangkol/shedua has cooled. Kevazingo is no longer shipped from Cameroon or Gabon but there are reports of shipments appearing to originate in Equatorial Guinea.

Production is showing signs of improvement in Cameroon with sawmills actively building stocks. Despite quiet demand in Asian and Middle East markets, renewed buying interest in China for species like bilinga, padouk, iroko and movingui has been welcomed.

European market are reported as stable overall with a minor uptick in demand seen for sapele sawnwood. There are regular orders for padouk, iroko and doussie but for small volumes.

There are reports (unconfirmed) that a large volume of logs has been seized in Gabon and that these have been sold mainly to plywood factories in GSEZ at low prices. This has caused dissatisfaction among other log suppliers. However, the volume seized is said to be equivalent to around one month's log requirements for veneer mills in the Nkok special zone.

### Land tax payments due

March 25th marked the deadline for operators in Gabon to pay their land taxes at the current rates. The rates vary based on the certification status of companies. Those with FSC or OLB certification (Origine et Légalité des Bois) incur a fee of 300 CFA per hectare those with only legal agreements are charged 600 CFA per hectare with others facing charges of 1000 CFA per hectare. It is reported that some operators have opted for instalments until year-end to manage their cash flow.

### Towards the modern silvicultural practices in Cameroon

Over the past two years the UFA-REFOREST project funded by the European Union has been supporting four forestry companies in Cameroon; AlpiCAM-GrumCAM, PALLISCO, SEEF and SEFAC in forest restoration. More than 45,000 trees have been planted in areas where the forest cover has been disturbed.

The project is being implemented by ATIBT with the support of its technical partners Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (ULiège), ENSET Douala and Nature Plus.

See: <https://www.atibt.org/en/news/13465/ufa-reforest-project-towards-the-modernisation-of-silvicultural-activities-in-forest-concessions-in-cameroon>

## Log export prices

West African logs Asian market	FOB Euro per cu.m		
	LM	B	BC/C
Acajou/ Khaya/N" Gollon	230	230	175
Ayous/Obeche/Wawa	230	230	225
Azobe & ekki	260	260	175
Belli	250	250	-
Bibolo/Dibétou	200	200	-
Bilinga	275	275	-
Iroko	290	270	225
Okoume (60% CI, 40% CE, 20% CS) (China only)	200	200	-
Moabi	260	260	220
Movingui	180	180	-
Niove	160	160	-
Okan	210	210	-
Padouk	300	270	240
Sapele	260	260	220
Sipo/Utile	260	260	230
Tali	260	260	-

## Sawnwood export prices

West African sawnwood	FOB Euro per cu.m
Ayous FAS GMS	425
Bilinga FAS GMS	720
Okoumé FAS GMS	480
Merchantable KD	440
Std/Btr GMS	400
Sipo FAS GMS	460
FAS fixed sizes	-
FAS scantlings	520
Padouk FAS GMS	900
FAS scantlings	1,000
Strips	400
Sapele FAS Spanish sizes	480
FAS scantlings	500
Iroko FAS GMS	700
Scantlings	750
Strips	400
Khaya FAS GMS	450
FAS fixed	500
Moabi FAS GMS	530
Scantlings	550
Movingui FAS GMS	420

### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in the Republic of Congo and Gabon.

<https://www.ito-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20240319/1710813683173232.pdf>

## Ghana

### Business Chamber bemoans high cost of doing business

The Ghana/South African Business Chamber has warned the high cost of doing business in the country is impacting negatively on both small and large enterprises. President of the Chamber, Grant Weber, described the current economic conditions as unfavourable and advised businesses they must carefully manage their costs to withstand these challenging times.

The Ghana/South African Business Chamber's works to promote trade, investment and cultural interactions between Ghana and South Africa. Members are from the mining, trade, financial services, real estate engineering, agro processing, manufacturing, import and export services and energy sectors.

In related news, the local media has reported the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GNCCI) has suggested that Ghana loses shipping opportunities to Togo over high port charges.

Disputing this the Director General of Ghana Port and Harbours Authority (GPHA), Michael Luguji, said the GPHA fees and levies at the ports are not the problem pointing to other cost centres such as custom duties, levies and other government agency charges which cannot be attributed to GPHA.

The Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, called for an assessment and review of the port clearing system and related charges.

See: <https://www.myjoyonline.com/ghana-south-african-business-chamber-bemoans-high-cost-of-doing-business/> and <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Ghana-loses-vessels-traffic-to-Togo-over-high-port-charges-GNCCI-1922391> and <https://www.myjoyonline.com/we-are-not-responsible-for-high-port-charges-gpha/>

### Boosting the local businesses community

Speaking at a consultative meeting with members of the Council of Indigenous Business Association of Ghana (CIBA), The Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, said many indigenous Ghanaian businesses, which constitute the majority of the business community, are not formalised and sadly are not reflected in government data which does not augur well for policy planning and growth. He said he will engage with the leadership of CIBA for their members to be formalised and their businesses registered.

He also mentioned tax reforms which, according to him, are carefully thought through to help the growth of businesses, especially indigenous businesses. He indicated the tax reforms the government intends to roll out in 2025 include a tax amnesty for businesses and individuals, a flat rate tax for businesses, as well as cancellation of some taxes. These are aimed at boosting businesses and ensuring transparency and understanding in the tax system.

See: <https://www.myjoyonline.com/formalising-indigenous-businesses-key-on-my-agenda-dr-bawumia-to-ciba/>

### 2023 wood exports – down by 15%

Ghana's wood product exports in 2023 dropped in both volume and value registering 15% and 12% respectively according to data from the Statistics and Research Unit of the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD).

Nineteen wood products at a volume of 293,285 cu.m were exported in 2023 compared to the 343,543 cu.m recorded for same period in 2022.

### Wood product export volumes

	2022 cu.m	2023 cu.m	YoY % change
AD sawnwood	188,426	170,044	-10
KD sawnwood	44,472	37,660	-15
Billets	37,488	13,262	-65
Plywood (Overland)	31,880	22,775	-29
Sliced Veneer	9,604	7,248	-25
Rotary Veneer	8,388	8,209	-2
Mouldings	9,717	7,712	-21
Plywood	9,806	13,675	39
Teak Logs	497	8,691	surged
Briquettes	735	2,332	217
Boules (AD)	1,828	721	-61
Others (8)	702	956	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>343,543</b>	<b>293,285</b>	<b>-15</b>

Data source: TIDD

Air and kiln-dried sawnwood accounted for 71% of the total export volume in 2023 (293,285cu.m). Export volumes of air dried sawnwood dropped by 10% year-on-year and exports of kiln dried sawnwood dropped by 15%.

Teak logs briquettes and plywood were the only products that recorded increased export volumes in 2023. The export statistics revealed that teak log exports in 2023 surged to Eur2.82 million in 2023 from sales of just Eur0.17 million in 2022.

### Wood product export value (Eur 000s)

	2022 Eur 000s	2023 Eur 000s	YoY % change
AD sawnwood	75,308	68,462	-9
KD sawnwood	26,505	24,806	-6
Billets	12,171	4,092	-66
Plywood (Overland)	9,138	8,543	-7
Sliced Veneer	12,737	8,573	-33
Rotary Veneer	4,069	4,108	1
Mouldings	7,450	6,895	-7
Plywood	3,706	4,838	31
Teak Logs	173	2,815	surged
Briquettes	175	408	133
Boules (AD)	1,402	575	-59
Others (8)	527	320	-39
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,361</b>	<b>134,435</b>	<b>-12.34</b>

Data source: TIDD

The main log export species were teak and gmelina which were for the India market (95%) with the balance going to the UK.

#### Stakeholders briefed on modalities of TREES

The Climate Change Directorate (CCD) in the Forestry Commission, in collaboration with the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) and the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standards (TREES), organised a 4-day engagement for stakeholders.

The workshop formed part of Ghana's preparation for the third-party verification and validation process and education for stakeholders on the modalities of TREES.

Ghana has submitted the TREES Registration and Monitoring document to ART under the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Programme which covers the 10 southern regions of Ghana, excluding the Oti Region.

In his presentation, Thomas Yaw Gyambrah, Manager for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Programmes of the Climate Change Directorate, provided an overview on Ghana's REDD+ process leading into ART/ TREES. He said Ghana has made impressive progress in implementing the components of the Warsaw Framework since the country joined the REDD+ mechanism in 2008 through the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

The MRV Manager added that these systems have helped developed a REDD+ Strategy, establish a safeguard system, create a Forest Reference Level and put in place a National Forest Monitoring System.

He also stated that Ghana has a REDD+ Strategy with 5 programmes with 2 of them under implementation; the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) and the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (GSLERP). The Managing Director of the ART Secretariat, Christiana Magerkurth, gave a presentation on the verification and validation process and how the ART Secretariat functions.

See: <https://fcghana.org/ccd-and-art-trees-engages-stakeholders/>

#### Export sawnwood prices

Ghana sawnwood, FOB FAS 25-100mmx150mm up x 2.4m up	Euro per cu.m	
	Air-dried	Kiln-dried
Afrormosia	860	925
Asanfina	465	500
Ceiba	290	351
Dahoma	496	558
Edinam (mixed redwood)	640	688
Emeri	660	780
African mahogany (Ivorenensis)	846	904
Makore	560	825
Niangon	690	835
Odum	836	1193
Sapele	800	1000
Wawa 1C & Select	457	502

#### Boule export prices

	Euro per cu.m
Black Ofram	330
Black Ofram Kiln dry	420
Niangon	811
Niangon Kiln dry	910

#### Rotary veneer export prices

Rotary Veneer, FOB	Euro per cu.m	
	CORE (1-1.9 mm)	FACE (>2mm)
Ceiba	348	441
Chenchen	472	612
Ogea	494	590
Essa	670	711
Ofram	350	435

#### Sliced veneer export prices

Sliced face veneer	FOB
	Euro per cu.m
Asanfina	1,127
Avodire	673
Chenchen	701
Mahogany	1,773
Makore	1,388
Odum	2,499
Sapele	1,242

#### Plywood export prices

Plywood, FOB BB/CC	Euro per cu.m		
	Ceiba	Ofram	Asanfina
4mm	555	580	641
6mm	412	535	604
9mm	433	504	560
12mm	699	512	480
15mm	390	385	430
18mm	460	415	383

Grade AB/BB would attract a premium of 10%, B/BB 5%, C/CC 5% and CC/CC 10%.

## Malaysia

#### Association addresses future of industry and the way forward

The Timber Exporters' Association of Malaysia (TEAM) president has urged the government to assist the industry regain its competitiveness as many companies are still trying to recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic.

TEAM president, Chua Song Fong, said there has been a significant drop in the volume of timber exports. The impact, he said, can be felt throughout the supply chain from upstream to the downstream including those involved in logging activities, manufacturing, furniture producers, timber treatment and also logistics. He added, the reduced harvest from the natural forest has had an impact and that there is a need to increase the availability of raw materials to keep the industry going.

Chua suggested that it will soon be necessary to import raw material for manufacturing but policies to ease the import of timber need to be in place. In the long term more tree plantations are needed.

See:

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/03/1028507/future-timber-industry-and-its-way-forward>

## Timber sector exports

(million RM)	2022	2023
Joinery & carpentry	1,381	1,284
Particleboard	288	230
Fibreboard	939	820
Logs	535	563
Mouldings	929	849
Plywood	3,295	2,486
Sawnwood	2,663	2,295
Veneer	107	81
Wooden furniture	11,148	9,128
Other products	3,900	4,108
Total	25,184	21,844

Data source: MTIB

### Certification of wood and biocomposite products

The Malaysia Timber Industry Board (MTIB) through the Fibre and Biocomposite Centre (FIDEC) took the initiative to organise a consultation on 'Certification of Wood and Biocomposite Products Toward Sustainability and Green Label'.

The programme highlighted the importance of certification of wood and biocomposite products especially from biomass raw materials such as palm biomass, wood residues and agricultural biomass. Five speakers presented in the consultation.

The first was on 'Sustainability for Wood and Furniture Products - Requirement in Global Markets' then 'Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification for Palm Oil Biomass Products' followed by a presentation on 'Carbon Footprint and Eco-Labeling Certifications'.

Nursyahida binti Mohd Ramli from the Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC) presented on MyHIJAU Mark Recognition Scheme for Green Products and Services.

MyHIJAU Mark is Malaysia's official green recognition endorsed by the Government of Malaysia, bringing together certified green products and services that meet local and international environmental standards under one single mark. The programme also featured a presentation by Dr. Loh Yueh Feng from FIDEC on 'Sustainability of the Wood and Biocomposite Industry in Malaysia'.

See:

[https://www.mtib.gov.my/muaturun/eMaskayu\\_Publication/eMaskayu\\_2023/eMaskayu%20Vol%2010\\_2023.pdf](https://www.mtib.gov.my/muaturun/eMaskayu_Publication/eMaskayu_2023/eMaskayu%20Vol%2010_2023.pdf)

### Ringgit will strengthen - Central Bank

Bank Negara Deputy Governor, Datuk Marzunisham Omar, has said the Bank is optimistic the ringgit will strengthen towards the end of the year driven by structural reforms and positive growth prospects and stressed that based on the Bank's internal analysis the local currency is undervalued.

The ringgit hit a 26-year low on 20 February, falling to RM4.7965 against the US dollar, its weakest level since the 1998 Asian financial crisis when it hit RM4.8850.

Marzunisham said household spending and private consumption will remain the key drivers of growth with favourable labour market wages anticipated to continue improving which will provide support to household spending, investment is also picking up, he added.

Malaysian Economic Association Deputy president, Professor Dr. Yeah Kim Leng, noted that the ringgit is relatively weak at the moment mainly because of the interest rate differential between Malaysia and the US.

See: <https://thesun.my/business/bank-negara-optimistic-ringgit-will-appreciate-GE12259852>

### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in Malaysia.

<https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20240319/1710813683173232.pdf>

## Indonesia

### SVLK with geolocation verifier

An early March meeting of the Indonesia-EU Joint Implementation Committee discussed cooperation on improving law enforcement, governance and trade in the forestry sector. The Director of Forest Product Processing and Marketing at the Ministry, Krisdianto, revealed that the SVLK continues to undergo development towards improvement including the addition of rules regarding geolocation.

The Indonesia Timber Legality Verification System (SVLK) is an instrument to ensure wood products originate from legal and sustainably managed forests.

The Acting Director General of Sustainable Forest Management at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Agus Justianto, told the meeting that Indonesia's SVLK has been recognised as an effective instrument to verify the legality and sustainability of Indonesian wood products.

The geolocation information will be integrated into various forest product utilisation systems managed by KLHK, such as the Forest Utilisation Business Control Information System (SIPASHUT), the Forest Product Administration Information System (SIPUHH), the Raw Material Utilisation Plan Information System (SIRPBBPHH) and the Timber Legality Information System (SVLK).

In related news, the founder of the Indonesian Forestry Certification Cooperation (IFCC), Dradjad Hari Wibowo, has suggested the government must swiftly adapt to the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation for exported forest products.

Dradjad mentioned that the EUDR will be implemented in December 2024 and that the IFCC is developing a draft document and scheme that exporters can use as a reference. This will enable exporters to obtain a geo-location after a certification audit,” said Dradjad. The aim is to assist exporters adapt to the EUDR regulations.

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Trade, Suhanto, stated that the Ministry supports the efforts of the Indonesian Forestry Certification Cooperation (IFCC) while waiting for the European Union to establish technical rules regarding EUDR as it is better for Indonesia to prepare early.

Regarding the development of IFCC certification, Agus Justianto, emphasised that, as a voluntary scheme, the IFCC/EUDR certification must still comply with legality aspects according to SVLK. “Voluntary certification must ensure that all SVLK criteria and indicators are met in the issuance of voluntary certificates.

See: <https://forestinsights.id/svlk-has-geolocation-verifier-complies-with-eu-deforestation-regulation/> and <https://www.medcom.id/ekonomi/sustainability/aNr7Z1Vb-svlk-jamin-legalitas-dan-kelestarian-kayu-indonesia> and <https://www.antaranews.com/berita/4018374/uni-eropa-buat-aturan-bebas-deforestasi-indonesia-diminta-antisipasi>

**Ministry asks furniture industry to track global trends**  
The Ministry of Industry has asked small and medium furniture industry players to continue to innovate by tracking global trends.

The ministry’s Director General of Small and Medium industries, Reni Yanita, said that innovations can be driven by exploring the cultures of Indonesia and incorporating them in modern furniture. Through this, she said, Indonesia could become a trendsetter in developing an environment-oriented lifestyle and the furniture industry business climate would improve.

To encourage small and medium furniture industry players to further innovate the Ministry has been holding exhibitions to increase the competitiveness of the sector. One such exhibition, Jogja International Furniture and Craft Fair Indonesia (JIFFINA), was held in March.

In the 2024 JIFFINA the Ministry of Industry organised a business matching programme that brought together prospective buyers and producers in the furniture sector.

It also invited small and medium furniture industry players to participate in the procurement of goods and services for the central government, regional governments, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and regional-owned enterprises by getting a domestic component level (TKDN) certificate.

See: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/308550/ministry-asks-furniture-industry-to-innovate-follow-global-trends>

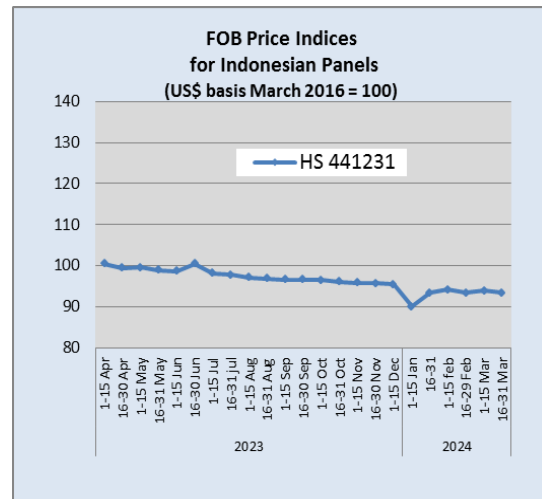
**Carbon market still sluggish**

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KHLK) has determined that the development of the carbon market depends on promoting Indonesia's commitment to mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Ministry has indicated the carbon market in Indonesia is still not optimal.

At an event on ‘Expanding Indonesia's Carbon Market: Opportunities for Growth and Sustainability’ the Director General of Climate Change Control at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Laksmi Dwanthi, said "Indonesia will never be able to increase the capacity of our carbon market if we do not increase climate change mitigation efforts”.

She added, “the carbon market is a tool for achieving emission reduction targets adopted in Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Indonesia has committed to reducing its emissions target by 31.89% through own efforts and the balance with international assistance”.

See: <https://www.msn.com/id-id/ekonomi/ekonomi/klhk-ungkap-penyebab-pasar-karbon-indonesia-masih-lesu/ar-BB1kccHx>



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

**Through the eyes of industry**

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<https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20240319/1710813683173232.pdf>

**Myanmar**

Our apologies, we are unable to provide news updates from Myanmar.

**Rise in panel and sawnwood price indices**

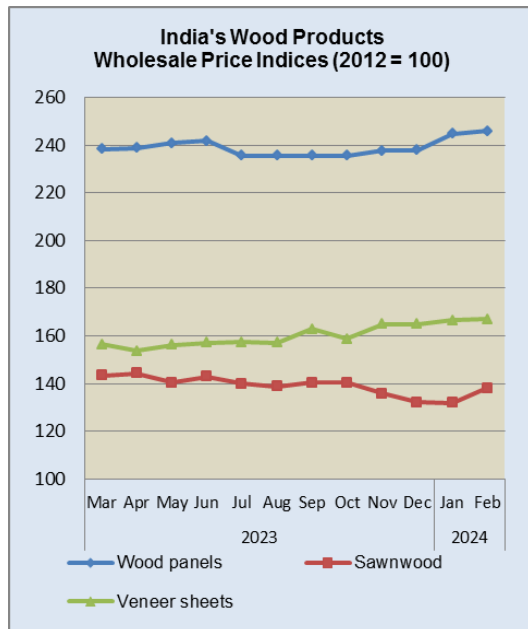
The annual rate of inflation based on the all India Wholesale Price Index was 0.2% (Provisional) for February 2024 (compared to January 2023). The positive rate of inflation in February 2024 was primarily due to increases in prices of food, crude petroleum and natural gas, electricity, machinery and equipment and motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers etc.

The index for manufactured products remained unchanged at 139.8 in February. Out of the 22 two-digit groups for manufactured products, 10 groups saw an increase in prices whereas 8 groups saw a decline in prices and 4 groups remained constant.

Some of the important groups that showed month on month increases in prices were textiles, pharmaceuticals, medicines, chemical and botanical products, motor vehicles, electrical equipment and tobacco products. Some of the groups that witnessed a decrease in prices were metal and non-metallic mineral products, fabricated metal products and rubber and plastic products.

The sawnwood and wood panel indices in February rose significantly month on month and the wood veneer index also rose but not as sharply.

See: [https://eaindustry.nic.in/pdf\\_files/cmonthly.pdf](https://eaindustry.nic.in/pdf_files/cmonthly.pdf)



Data source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

**SMEs need affordable credit and marketing support**

Merchandise exports are expected to come in at US\$450 billion by the end of this fiscal year despite geo-political challenges such as the Red Sea shipping crisis, according to the newly elected president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (IEO), Ashwani Kumar. He said that the exporting sector, particularly MSMEs, need affordable credit and marketing support to further boost the country's exports.

India recorded the highest monthly exports in fiscal 2023 in February registering an almost 12% growth mainly driven by increased shipments of engineering goods, electronic items and pharma products.

Read more at:

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-exports-may-reach-450-billion-this-fiscal-new-fieo-president/articleshow/108609515.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-exports-may-reach-450-billion-this-fiscal-new-fieo-president/articleshow/108609515.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

**SMEs given time to prepare for QCO**

An announcement from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that the implementation of the Quality Control Order (QCO) for mandatory BIS on panels and other wood products will be delayed.

This comes as a relief for local manufacturers and importers. This is because the time was too short particularly for the 'unorganised' manufacturers who will be required to apply for the certification after adjusting their production processes and introducing testing to meet the new Standards

See: [https://egazette.gov.in/\(S\(blbl1lyrkm4jncjtmt12mrq\)\)/SearchGazetteID.aspx?id=593392](https://egazette.gov.in/(S(blbl1lyrkm4jncjtmt12mrq))/SearchGazetteID.aspx?id=593392)

and

[https://egazette.gov.in/\(S\(blbl1lyrkm4jncjtmt12mrq\)\)/SearchGazetteID.aspx?id=593392](https://egazette.gov.in/(S(blbl1lyrkm4jncjtmt12mrq))/SearchGazetteID.aspx?id=593392)

**Heat waves and intense rainfall a feature in 2023**

The 11th edition of the 'State of India's Environment' series provides the latest update on environment-related events and developments. This document is an annual publication from the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) the Down To Earth magazine.

India witnessed extreme weather events almost every day in the first nine months of 2023, thanks to record-breaking temperatures and rainfall, says the report from the Centre for Science and Environment. More than 3,200 people died and around 2 million hectares of cropland were damaged.

Extreme weather events broke several records in India last year says the report. India witnessed its warmest ever August and September in 122 years according to the Indian Meteorological Department and February 2023 was also the warmest on record since 1901.

In many areas there was less rain. South India received its lowest June rainfall in over 120 years due to several factors including the interactions of wind directions and cyclone "Biparjoy", an extremely severe cyclone that disrupted the monsoon in some parts of India, while bringing heat waves simultaneously to other regions.

Central India received the lowest rainfall ever since 1901 and India's northwest experienced a 76% rainfall deficit.

### Rise in forest land diverted to other uses

In India, while the number of environmental crimes decreased a report from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change found that 17,381 hectares of forestland was diverted for non-forestry purposes in 2022-23, under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980. This is a rise of 3.5% than when compared to 2021-22.

More than half of these diversions occurred for road construction, mining activities and transmission line development. This was before the implementation of the latest amendment to forestry regulations that will, among other things, weaken the protection that the Forestry Act offers.

Once the new Act comes into force some have raised concerns that more forestland could be diverted for non-forestry use. However, a recent interim order by the Supreme Court that seeks to prevent the diversion of such forests has brought hope to conservationists.

See: <https://www.cseindia.org/state-of-india-s-environment-2024-11989>

### Cost C&F Indian ports in US dollars, Hoppus measure

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

	Hoppus cu.m	US\$ C&F
Brazil	93	395
Colombia	118	340
Costa Rica	147	350
Nigeria	-	-
Benin	142	515
Tanzania	94	315
Laos	-	-
South Sudan	137	385
Guatemala	193	455
Venezuela	95	315

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

	cu.m	US\$ C&F
Benin	51	630
Brazil	97	355
Colombia	123	345
Costa Rica	99	375
Ecuador	-	-
Ghana	106	425
Ivory Coast	-	-
Nigeria	69	375
South Sudan	138	390
Tanzania	97	375
Togo	147	380
Panama	91	460

### Locally milled sawnwood prices

Sawnwood Ex-mill	Rs per cu.ft.
Merbau	4,200 - 4,500▲
Balau	2,800 - 3,000▲
Resak	-
Kapur	-
Kempas	1,500 - 1,800▲
Red meranti	1,500 - 1,800
Radiata pine	950 - 1,150▲
Whitewood	900 - 1,050

Price range depends mainly on lengths and cross-section

### Sawn hardwood prices

Sawnwood (Ex-warehouse) (KD 12%)	Rs per cu.ft.
Beech	1,600 - 1,900
Sycamore	2,000 - 2,300
Red Oak	2,500 - 3,000
White Oak	2,800 - 3,300
American Walnut	4,700 - 5,500
Hemlock STD grade	1,350 - 1,600
Western Red Cedar	2,220 - 2,450
Douglas Fir	2,200 - 2,400

Price range depends mainly on lengths and cross-section

### Domestic ex-warehouse prices for locally manufactured WBP plywood

Plywood Ex-warehouse	Rs. per sq.ft
4mm	80.00
6mm	92.00
9mm	109.00
12mm	132.00
15mm	170.00
18mm	187.00

### Domestic ex-warehouse prices for locally manufactured MR plywood

Plywood Ex-warehouse	Rs. per sq.ft
4mm	55.00
6mm	70.00
9mm	81.00
12mm	96.00
15mm	129.00
19mm	138.00
5mm Flexible ply	87.00



**Wood and wood product (W&WP) trade highlights**

The General Department of Customs has reported W&WP exports to Canada in February 2024 were valued at US\$10.2 million, down 26% compared to February 2023. In the first 2 months of 2024 W&WP exports to Canada totaled US\$36 million, up 47% over the same period in 2023.

In February 2024 the exports of kitchen furniture earned US\$65 million, down 1% compared to February 2023. In the first 2 months of 2024 exports of kitchen furniture earned US\$192 million, up 51% compared to 2023.

Vietnam's poplar wood imports in February 2024 amounted to 17,000 cu.m, worth US\$6.8 million, down 44.3% in volume and 44.4% in value compared to January 2024. However, compared to February 2023 earnings were up 24% in volume and 14% in value. In the first 2 months of 2024 imports of this item reached 47,700 cu.m, worth US\$19.1 million, up 98% in volume and 85% in value over the same period in 2023.

Vietnam's imports of wood raw material from Southeast Asia in February 2024 totalled 46,000 cu.m with a value of US\$13.0 million, down 49% in volume and 49% in value compared to January 2024 and down 34% in volume and 31% in value compared to February 2023.

**Imports of wood raw material from SE Asia**

Imports from the Southeast Asia in January 2024 soared to the highest level in the past 14 months reaching 90,440 cu.m at a value of US\$25.23 million, up 10% in volume and 11% in value compared to December 2023 and up seven times higher in volume and almost double the value compared to January 2023.

Imports in February amounted to 46,000 cu.m worth US\$13.0 million, down 49% in volume and 49% in value compared to January 2024 and down 34% in volume and 31% in value compared to February 2023.

In the first 2 months of 2024 imports of wood raw material from Southeast Asia stood at 136,440 cu.m with a value of US\$38.0 million, up 46% in volume and 35% in value over the same period in 2023.

**Suppliers in SE Asia**

Among ASEAN countries Thailand was the largest supplier of wood raw materials to Vietnam in January 2024 reaching 54,075 cu.m at a value of US\$10.73 million, up 7% in volume and 6% in value compared to December 2023 and up significantly higher (a factor of 10 times) compared to January 2023.

The top 3 wood products imported from Thailand in January 2024 were particleboard, fibreboard and sawnwood. In particular, particleboard imports increased compared to December 2023, while imports of fibreboard and sawnwood imports dropped.

The second largest supplier in January was Laos at 24,340 cu.m worth US\$10.98 million, up 17% in volume and 18% in value compared to December 2023 and an increase of 81% in volume and 63% in value compared to January 2023.

Sawnwood was the main wood product imported from Laos market in January accounting for 86% of the total wood imported from Laos at 20,870 cu.m worth US\$10.29 million, up 18% in volume and 19% in value compared to December 2023.

Thailand was the main supplier of fibreboard to Vietnam in January accounting for 98% of total imports with a minor imports from Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Imports of wood raw material from Malaysia in January came to 8,300 cu.m with a value of US\$2.32 million, up 10% in volume and 9% in value compared to December 2023 and up 59% in volume and 131% in value compared to January 2023.

Sawnwood and particleboard are the main products imported from the Malaysia. Imports of these two items in January 2024 increased sharply compared to December 2023 as well as compared to January 2023.

Laos was the largest supplier of sawnwood to Vietnam in January 2024 followed by Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia. January imports from Laos, Malaysia and Cambodia increased against December 2023 while sawnwood imports from Thailand decreased.

**SE Asian wood raw material suppliers to Vietnam**

	2024 cu.m	YoY % change
Thailand	54,075	7
Laos	24,341	17
Malaysia	8,303	10
Indonesia	2,296	82
Cambodia	1,251	34
Singapore	95	
Myanmar	42	
Philippines	41	

Data source: Vietnam General Department of Customs

**China Vietnam's largest wood chip export market**

Vietnam exported wood chips to 13 markets in 2023. China, Japan and the Republic of Korea were the country's three main wood chip export markets. Vietnam exported over 9.38 million tonnes of wood chips to China in 2023 worth over US\$1.43 billion and accounting for 65% in volume and 65% in value of chip sales.

In the Chinese market the average FOB price for wood chips dropped from US\$183-185 per tonne at the beginning of last year to less than US\$140 per tonne by the middle of the year after which prices improved slightly to around US\$150 per tonne.

The second market was Japan and here the FOB price for wood chips declined by up to US\$36 per tonne last year. Specifically, the price of wood chips in this market was US\$181 per tonne in January last year but had fallen to US\$145 by December.

Wood chip exports to South Korea reached 548,590 tonnes worth US\$91.88 million accounting for 4% of export volumes.

As was the case in the Chinese and Japanese markets, export prices to South Korea dropped by around US\$27 per tonne last year with strong fluctuations during the year. The market recorded an average export price of US\$200 per tonne in January 2023 but the price decreased continuously to bottom out at US\$136 but bounced back to US\$172 in the last months of the year.

The Vietnam Timber and Forest Product Association has suggested demand for imported wood chips in China would tend to continue to decline in the short term leading to a decline in chip export prices in this market.

The Association said the export market structure for wood chips will not change significantly in the near future.

However, the wood chip industry in Vietnam will continue to compete for raw materials with the pellet industry especially in the northern provinces because plantation wood is the main input for both industries in this area.

The Association added, businesses and management agencies need to consider investing in building up raw material sources to ensure a stable supply for production and export.

See: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/china-becomes-vietnams-largest-wood-chip-export-market-post1083618.vov>

#### **Vietnam to auction 5 million tonnes of carbon credits**

The Vietnamese Government intends to auction approximately five million tonnes of carbon credits through international trading platforms.

This information was outlined in a report sent by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to the Prime Minister regarding the implementation status of the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) in the North Central Region and the proposal to dispose of the surplus credits for the period of 2018-2019.

Last October the World Bank confirmed Vietnam's emission reduction of 16.21 million tonnes. Of this amount, Vietnam received a payment of VND1.25 trillion (around US\$28 million) from the Bank for reducing 10.3 million tonnes of carbon emissions between 1 February 2018 and 31 December 2019.

Of the excess 5.9 million tonnes of carbon credits the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) plans to sell 1 million to the World Bank while the rest will be auctioned through international trading platforms.

The Ministry plans to seek the World Bank's assistance to find potential buyers under the established ERPA or assist Vietnam in contacting pilot auctions through international trading platforms.

Vietnam has received US\$51.5 million for verified emission reduction results from the WB, due to forest loss limitations, forest degradation and increased carbon storage through afforestation and reforestation.

See: <https://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-receives-us515-million-from-world-bank-for-forest-emission-reduction-326393.html> and <https://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-plans-to-auction-5-million-tons-of-carbon-credits-326417.html>

Vietnam has the potential to generate annual revenues of US\$200 million by selling approximately 40 million carbon credits according to calculations by the Department of Forestry, as reported by the local media.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has outlined seven targets and 11 solutions for forestry management this year.

Key priorities include finalising the national forestry plan and providing support to companies transitioning from production to forestry businesses.

See: <https://carbonherald.com/vietnam-may-earn-200m-per-year-from-selling-carbon-credits/> and <https://carbonherald.com/vietnam-wraps-up-51-5m-carbon-credits-sale-to-world-bank/>

## **Brazil**

### **Forest industries to have ABNT certification**

If negotiations go well the Brazilian forest sector will have its products certified by the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT). During the 'Sustainable Wood Forum' held in Rio de Janeiro 14 March 2024 representatives of the Center for Timber Producing and Exporting Industries of Mato Grosso State (CIPEM), the National Forum of Forest-Based Activities (FNBF) and the Federation of Industries of Mato Grosso State (FIEMT) met with ABNT to continue negotiations on the new certification process.

According to FIEMT, ABNT launched 'Technical Standard PR 1020' related to the process for verifying the traceability of the origin of wood in December 2023 and stressed that the focus is now on creating a certification seal for companies that meet this Standard.

CIPEM pointed out that timber from the state of Mato Grosso complies with a strict traceability process guaranteed by a chain of custody system among other tools such as the System for the Trading and Transportation of Forest Products (Sisflora 2.0) and the Forest Origin Document (DOF+ Traceability) of the Federal government which aims to control and certify the origin of timber from natural forests along the supply chain.

ABNT certification seeks, not only to benefit the segment in the state of Mato Grosso, but the entire country through the traceability process. FNBF emphasised that the aim of certification is to raise competitiveness and market recognition through applying sound environmental and social conditions for logging, processing and the transport of wood.

See: <https://simenorte.com.br/noticias/industrias-de-base-florestal-de-mato-grosso-fomentam-o-setor-em-eventos-no-rio-de-janeiro-2/>

#### **Sustainable forest management for a green economy**

Timber from areas with Sustainable Forest Management Plans can be used in various stages of civil construction. As a resistant and versatile material the use of wood helps mitigate the climate crisis as it is a natural and renewable material.

The use of wood products is a viable option in construction especially with the new products, such as Glued Laminated Timber, which makes it possible to replace concrete and steel in buildings. According to the Ministry of the Environment, wooden buildings cost 30% less than masonry. Wood offers environmental gains through the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> which is stored in the building itself

The Mato Grosso State Environment Secretariat points out that by increasing the area under forest management plans to 3.6 million hectares by 2050 the state of Mato Grosso will be able to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 1 million tonnes, an essential step for the state to neutralise carbon emissions.

See: <https://www.yumpu.com/pt/document/read/68646578/florestal-260web>

#### **Export update**

In February 2024 Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) increased 16% in value compared to February 2023 from US\$262.2 million to US\$304.2 million.

Pine sawnwood exports increased 9% in value between February 2023 (US\$50.9 million) and February 2024 (US\$55.6 million). In volume, exports increased 15.5% over the same period from 215,200 cu.m to 248,600 cu.m.

However, tropical sawnwood exports declined 12.5% in volume, from 24,000 cu.m in February 2023 to 21,000 cu.m in February 2024. In value, exports fell 18% from US\$12.7 million to US\$10.4 million, over the same period.

Pine plywood exports increased 10% in value in February 2024 (US\$57.1 million) compared to February 2023 (US\$51.7 million). In volume, exports increased 9% over the same period, from 165,700 cu.m (February 2023) to 180,300 cu.m. (February 2024).

Exports of tropical plywood dropped 61% in volume and by 52% in value from 4,600 cu.m and US\$2.1 million in February 2023 to 1,800 cu.m and US\$1.0 million in February 2024, respectively.

On a brighter note, exports of wooden furniture increased from US\$38.6 million in February 2023 to US\$45.9 million in February 2024, an increase of 19%.

#### **Chile - a strategic market for the Brazilian furniture industries**

Chile has been gaining prominence as an important consumer of Brazilian furniture. Considered one of the most dynamic economies in Latin America, Chilean families spend an average of 5.25% of their income on furniture, according to IEMI (Inteligência de Mercado).

Indicators point to significant growth in demand for furniture in the country driven by rising living standards and an expanding consumer market. Due to the limited production of furniture in Chile the market presents good opportunities for Brazilian manufacturers.

In 2022, Chilean furniture imports totalled approximately US\$592 million. This was 22% less than the previous year. Brazilian furniture exports to Chile peaked in 2021 reaching US\$109.2 million for the year. In 2022, however, there was a sharp drop in the value of imports.

With the elimination of customs tariffs for furniture traded among the member countries of the free trade agreement between Chile and Mercosur the Brazilian furniture sector has an even greater opportunity in the Chilean market.

With short and medium-term growth potential estimated at US\$57.6 million, Brazilian exports to Chile represent a strategic opportunity for companies in the furniture sector, especially medium and small-sized companies looking to expand their international sales.

See: <https://forestnews.com.br/chile-mercado-estrategico-industria-moveleira/>

#### **Positive timber sector trade balance in Santa Catarina**

The timber sector was one of the positive sectors in terms of trade balance in the State of Santa Catarina in the southern region of Brazil having boosted sales by around 30% in January 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. The Federation of Industries of Santa Catarina State (FIESC) points out that the sector is representative of Santa Catarina's exports and the gradual recovery of sales abroad is reflected in the maintenance and creation of jobs.

Exports of furniture in January totalled US\$19.2 million, sawnwood US\$25.8 million and carpentry US\$24 million. According to FIESC, the positive performance of the furniture sector was due to firm demand in the US and reflects the increase in short-term demand from single-family homes and the impact of US government incentives for civil construction.

The United States continued to be the main destination for exports from Santa Catarina state in January 2024, with purchases 17% higher than in January 2023.

See: <https://www.remade.com.br/noticias/19787/motores-e-produtos-de-madeira-sao-destaques-nas-exportacoes-de-janeiro>

### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in Brazil.

<https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20240319/1710813683173232.pdf>

### Domestic log prices

	US\$ per cu.m
Brazilian logs, mill yard, domestic	
Ipê	591▲
Jatoba	247▲
Massaranduba	219▲
Muiracatiara	212▲
Angelim Vermelho	216▲
Mixed redwood and white woods	160

Source: STCP Data Bank

### Domestic sawnwood prices

	US\$ per cu.m
Brazil sawnwood, domestic (Green ex-mill)	
Ipê	2,029▼
Jatoba	1,102▼
Massaranduba	965▼
Muiracatiara	929▼
Angelim Vermelho	961▼
Mixed red and white	590▼
Eucalyptus (AD)	337▼
Pine (AD)	277▲
Pine (KD)	310▼

Source: STCP Data Bank

### Domestic plywood prices (excl. taxes)

	US\$ per cu.m
Parica	
4mm WBP	674▲
10mm WBP	518▼
15mm WBP	454▲
4mm MR.	643▲
10mm MR.	443▼
15mm MR.	403▲

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

### Prices for other panel products

	US\$ per cu.m
Domestic ex-mill prices	
15mm MDP/Particleboard	345▼
15mm MDF	362▼

Source: STCP

### Export sawnwood prices

	US\$ per cu.m
Sawnwood, Belem/Paranagua Ports, FOB	
Ipe	2,895▼
Jatoba	1,532▼
Massaranduba	1,513▼
Muiracatiara	1,545▼
Pine (KD)	185

Source: STCP Data Bank

### Export plywood prices

	US\$ per cu.m
Pine plywood EU market, FOB	
9mm C/CC (WBP)	335▲
12mm C/CC (WBP)	303▲
15mm C/CC (WBP)	295▲
18mm C/CC (WBP)	290▲

Source: STCP Data Bank

### Export prices for added value products

		US\$ per cu.m
FOB Belem/Paranagua ports		
Decking Boards	Ipê	3,122▼
	Jatoba	1,783▼

Source: STCP Data Bank

## Peru

### Forestry and wildlife regulations explained to private owners

The Forestry and Wildlife Resources Supervision Agency (OSINFOR) briefed holders of forestry permit titles on private properties and forest concessionaires in Atalaya on forestry and wildlife regulations. 24 participants were trained on the necessity to comply with regulations for more effective and responsible forest management.

During the workshop the roles and functions of regulatory entities such as the Regional Forestry and Wildlife Authority (ARFFS), FEMA and OSINFOR were explained to participants. The workshop focused on explaining the supervision process and how they can voluntarily correct some deficiencies during forest management.

### Exports did not start the year well

The Extractive Services and Industries Management of the Association of Exporters (ADEX) has reported shipments of Peruvian wood products in January 2024 were valued at US\$5.95 million, a drop of around 25% compared to the same month in 2023 (US\$7.91 million).

This result is explained by the slower demand from China where imports from Peru went from US\$1.78 million in January 2023 to just US\$0.75 million in January of this year.

In January exports to France were worth US\$0.78 million an over 50% decline followed by the Dominican Republic (US\$0.77 million, -11%), Mexico (US\$0.76 million, -15%) and the United States (US\$0.71 million, -31%).

Completing the top ten export markets were Chile (US\$0.64 million), Vietnam (US\$0.36 million), Denmark (US\$0.23 million), Belgium (US\$0.18 million) and the United Arab Emirates (US\$0.15 million). It should be noted that demand in Chile and Denmark rose.

According to the ADEX Data Trade Intelligence System sawnwood (US\$2.51 million) led exports, accounting for 42% of the total export value, a year on year drop of 6.2%.

Other export products were 'other wood sawn or chipped longitudinally' (US\$0.56 million), 'other sawn or chipped pine wood' (US\$0.44 million) and 'sawn wood of tropical wood' (US\$0.17 million).

Exports of semi-manufactured products earned US\$1.89 million despite suffering a drop of -54%. Profiled wood (except ipe) and moulded wood stood out (US\$1.64 million), molded wood of tropical wood (except ipe) (US\$0.48 million) and slats and friezes for unassembled parquet floors (US\$0.41 million).

In addition, exports of furniture and parts earned US\$0.45 million, firewood and charcoal (US\$0.44 million), manufactured products (US\$0.22 million), construction products (US\$0.21 million), fibreboards and particleboard (US\$0.16 million).

#### **SERFOR seeks improvement in management plan approvals**

The National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) organised workshops to identify bottlenecks and propose alternatives for improvements to the process for approval of Forest Management Plans.

The workshops brought together representatives of the Regional Forestry and Wildlife Authority of Loreto, Madre de Dios and Ucayali, the National Service of the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (Sernanp), the Agency for the Supervision of Forestry Resources and Wildlife (Osinfor) and the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM), entities that participate directly and indirectly in the evaluation, approval and supervision of forest management plans.

As a result of this proposals to simplify speed up the processes were agreed upon. The workshops were held with the support of the Executive Board for the Development of the Forestry Sector of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and the Forest+ Project of the Technical Cooperation of USAID and the U.S. Forest Service.

#### **New initiative on gender equality**

The National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) held an event: '8M, Always visible: contribution of women in the forestry and wildlife sector' in early March in commemoration of International Women's Day.

At the event SERFOR launched an initiative on Gender Equality in response to the need to include the diversity of women and the knowledge and different visions of women that contribute to the management of resources.

See: <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/serfor/noticias/920967-serfor-anuncia-conformacion-de-comite-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-que-impulsara-la-labor-de-las-women-in-the-sector>

During the event the role of women in the forestry and wildlife sector in Peru was reported and through their diverse experiences they identified the gaps to be closed regarding equality and recognition of the current role of women in forestry sector activities for the benefit of all Peruvians.

In the forestry and wildlife sector, according to the study: "Challenges of female employment in the Peruvian forestry sector - A first approximation" published by SERFOR in 2021, women find few incentives to follow professions related to the sector due because the perception is that forestry is a man's job. This perception was dismantled.

#### **Ucayali concludes forest zoning**

Thanks to the work of the Regional Government of Ucayali with the technical assistance of the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI) the forest zoning (ZF) for the Department of Ucayali was approved.

This marks an important step in the territorial planning in this region. Ucayali is the second largest Department in the country after Loreto and one of the largest producers of forest products. According to the ZF, the forest area covers 9,849,351 hectares extending over around 94% of the Department. Permanent production zones comprise 56% of the Department.

The category Special Treatment zones cover 8.6% of the Department and include reserves for indigenous peoples, agroforestry and silvopastoral zones, residual or remnant forest zones and non-forest plant zones.

See: <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/serfor/noticias/920908-ucayali-concluye-la-zonificacion-forestal-de-todo-su-territorio>

#### **Proposals for the National Forestry and Wildlife Policy 2030**

The National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) conducted a series of presentations on the proposed new National Forestry and Wildlife Policy (PNFFS) for 2030 to various key actors in the sector.

If approved the PNFFS will have a positive impact on the more than 72 million hectares of forest that the country has (more than 60% of the national territory) and ensure its conservation. This transparent and participatory process contributes to articulating efforts for the subsequent design and implementation of the new policy.

In January and February the PNFFS proposal was presented to the representatives of the National Forestry and Wildlife Management System (SINAFOR), the National Chamber of Commerce, Production, Tourism and Services (PERUCAMÁRAS), the Confederation National of Private Business Institutions (CONFIEP) and the Association of Exporters (ADEX).

See: <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/serfor/noticias/920485-actores-claves-del-sector-conocen-y-aportan-en-la-propuesta-de-la-politica-nacional-forestal-y-of-wildlife-by-2030>

**Export prices for added value products**

	US\$ per cu.m
Strips for parquet Cabreuva/estoraque KD12% S4S, Asian market	1327-1398
Cumaru KD, S4S Swedish market Asian market	986-1119 1079-1101
Cumaru decking, AD, S4S E4S, Central American market	995-1001
Pumaquiro KD Gr. 1, C&B, Mexican market	479-554
Quinilla KD, S4S 2x10x62cm, Asian market	582-611
2x13x75cm, Asian market	774-831

**Export sawnwood prices**

	US\$ per cu.m
Peru sawnwood, FOB Callao Port	
Pumaquiro 25-50mm AD Mexican market	691-710
Virola 1-2" thick, length 6"-12" KD Grade 1, Mexican market	582-602
Grade 2, Mexican market	527-541
Cumaru 4" thick, 6"-11" length KD Central American market	989-1012 ↓
Asian market	986-1011 ↓
Ishpingo (oak) 2" thick, 6"-8" length Spanish market	634-649
Dominican Republic	744-793
Marupa 1", 6-11 length KD Grade 1 Asian market	559-571

**Export plywood prices**

	US\$ per cu.m
Peru plywood, FOB Callao (Mexican market)	
Copaiba, 2 faces sanded, B/C, 8mm	349-379
Virola, 2 faces sanded, B/C, 5.2mm	487-511
Cedar fissilis, 2 faces sanded, 5.5mm	766-783
Lupuna, treated, 2 faces sanded, 5.2mm Lupuna plywood	396-419
B/C 15mm	449-495
B/C 9mm	379-399
B/C 12mm	350-360
B/C 8mm	466-487
C/C 4mm	389-425
Lupuna plywood B/C 4mm Central Am.	391-407

**Export veneer prices**

	US\$ per Cu.m
Veneer FOB Callao port	
Lupuna 3/Btr 2.5mm	221-249
Lupuna 2/Btr 4.2mm	234-266
Lupuna 3/Btr 1.5mm	219-228

**Domestic sawnwood prices**

	US\$ per cu.m
Peru sawnwood, domestic	
Mahogany	218-236
Virola	225-238
Spanish Cedar	182-218
Marupa (simarouba)	192-227

**Domestic plywood prices (excl. taxes)**

	US\$ per cu.m
Iquitos mills	
122 x 244 x 4mm	512
122 x 244 x 6mm	519
122 x 244 x 8mm	522
122 x 244 x 12mm	528
Pucallpa mills	
122 x 244 x 4mm	503
122 x 244 x 6mm	511
122 x 244 x 8mm	516
122 x 244 x 8mm	521

**Domestic prices for other panel products**

	US\$ per cu.m
Peru, domestic particleboard	
1.83m x 2.44m x 4mm	282
1.83m x 2.44m x 6mm	230
1.83m x 2.44m x 12mm	204

**Japan****Japan raises interest rates for first time in 17 years**

The Bank of Japan announced on 19 March an end to negative interest rates and a review other ultra-loose monetary policies that have been in place for more than a decade to buoy the stagnant economy. This comes as wages jumped after consumer prices rose. In 2016 the bank cut the rate below zero in an attempt to stimulate the country's stagnating economy.

The BoJ will also raise its interest rate on part of the balance of current account deposits that commercial banks hold at the central bank from minus 0.1% to plus 0.1%. The unconventional policy was aimed at encouraging banks to increase lending to businesses.

In addition, the BoJ will abolish a policy framework, known as yield curve control, designed to keep long-term interest rates low by purchasing government bonds. The policy change in Japan means that there are no longer any countries left with negative interest rates.

**Business Federation urges government to combat deflation**

Masakazu Tokura, chairman of the Japan Business Federation known as Keidanren said that the Federation hopes the government will take necessary measures to fully combat the country's decades-long deflation. He is quoted as saying "It is important for the country to work as one to make this year a historic turning point in completely overcoming deflation that has continued for 30 years."

This call by the Federation appears to have been heard by the Government as, in a budget speech, the Japanese Prime Minister said that Japan is "only halfway" to ending deflation, pledging to continue implementing measures to achieve a virtuous cycle of wage and price rises. The government plans tax cuts and policy changes to help companies continue with wage increase in a bid to realise disposable income growth among consumers.

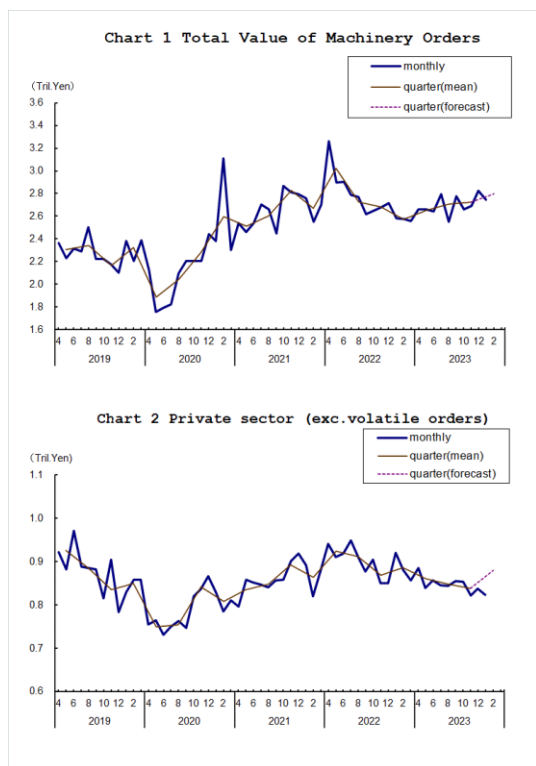
A recent Nikkei survey of top executives between 26 February and 13 March just 50% of respondents say the economy is "expanding" or "expanding slightly", down from 72.5% in the December survey. This marks the lowest reading since the March 2022 poll where only 13% expected any expansion.

Corporate leaders have grown less upbeat on the economy in recent months signaling a cautious stance ahead of wage hikes that could begin to boost spending later this year.

Hiroyuki Isono, president and group CEO of paper company Oji Holdings "Because of the prolonged inventory adjustments, along with the weak consumer spending and the weak Chinese economy, it remains unclear when the manufacturing sector will recover,"

**Orders for machinery down in January**

The Cabinet Office has reported the total value of machinery orders received by 280 surveyed manufacturers operating in Japan fell by almost 3% in January from the previous month. Private-sector machinery orders, excluding volatile ones for ships and those from electric power companies, decreased a seasonally adjusted by 2% in January.



See: <https://www.esri.cao.go.jp/en/stat/juchu/2024/2401juchue.html>

**Part-time worker wages below that of full time employees**

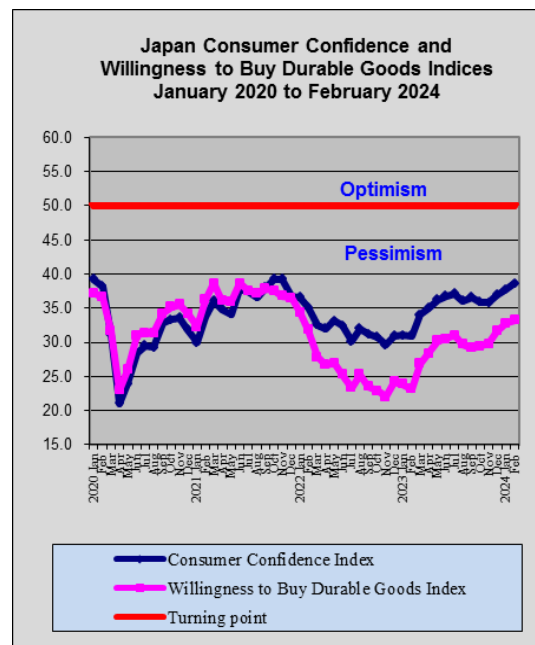
The major Japanese corporations have agreed record pay rises signaling the employers have finally stopped holding back on pay in order to to build up their dash reserves. This comes after around 30 years of extremely low nominal wage growth.

In past years, Japanese companies had been preoccupied with controlling production costs in the face of global competition but the labour shortage has proven, again, that when supply cannot meet demand prices (in this case wages) go up.

Japan has one of the world's oldest populations which has led to a decline in the number of working-age individuals making it challenging for companies to fill job vacancies. Another issue is that companies took advantage of recent laws allowing an increase in the number of so-called 'part-time workers' whose wages are below that of full time employees.

Japan lags far behind other big economies in minimum wages and the minimum wage in Japan was 45% of median full-time wages in 2022. The percentage of workers in Japan whose income was below the new minimum-wage level when it was raised in fiscal 2022 came to 19%, a sharp rise from an earlier survey reflecting an increase in part-time workers.

See: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Market-Spotlight/Japan-s-wage-hikes-create-game-changing-inflation-dynamic-as-BOJ-meets> and

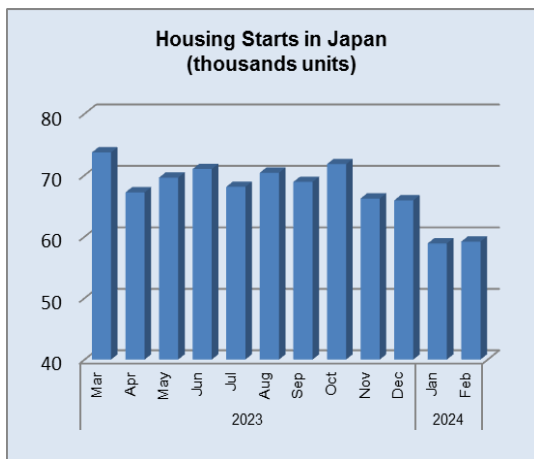


Data source: Cabinet Office, Japan

**Residential property growth slowing**

Data compiled in the Global Property Guide indicates Japan's residential property growth is slowing amidst falling demand and weakening construction activity. During the third quarter of 2023 the nationwide residential property price index rose by a modest 2.4% from a year earlier, a slowdown from y-o-y increases of 4.8% in the second quarter and 4.1% in the first quarter according to the Land Institute of Japan.

See: <https://www.lij.jp/monthly.html> and <https://www.globalpropertyguide.com/>



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

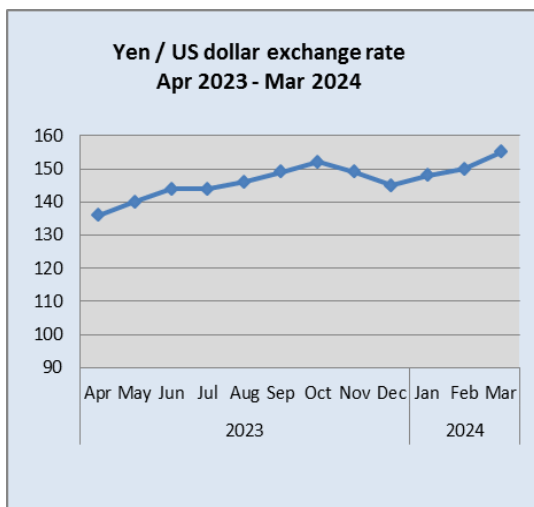
**Japan – the the last major economy to end negative interest rate policy**

After the Bank of Japan (BoJ) ended its negative interest rate policy, the last major economy to do so, the yen fell sharply against the US dollar.

The US dollar hit a four-month high of yen 154 recently way beyond the lowest seen in October 2022 when Japan carried out so-called stealth interventions, buying yen to sell dollars without announcing the moves immediately.

The yen’s recent weakness reflects a view among market players that the BoJ is unlikely to raise interest rates further anytime soon as premature tightening of monetary policy with additional interest rate increases could quickly undo the gains made in tackling deflation and the benefits to exporters of a weak currency.

See: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Markets/Japanese-yen-slides-past-150-after-BOJ-decision-to-raise-rates>



**Import update**

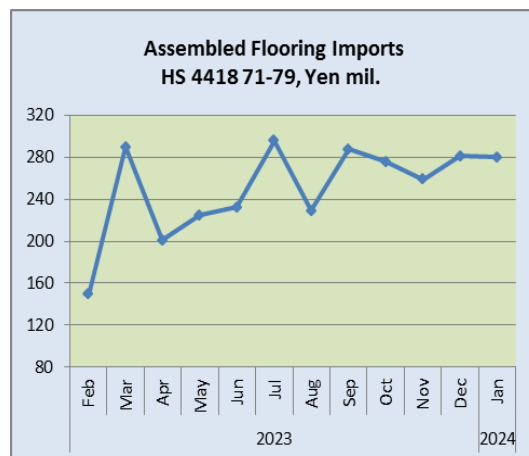
**Assembled wooden flooring imports**

Imports of assembled wooden flooring (HS441871-79) in January 2024 were at around the same value as in December 2023, a pattern that has been consistent in most years reflecting the quiet demand due to the construction sector holidays in January.

Year on year the value of January 2024 imports was down 15% which, when viewed against the rate at which the yen has weakened over the past 12 months signals a significant decline in the volume imported.

In January the main category of assembled flooring imports was HS441875 accounting for around 70% of the total value of assembled flooring imports. The second largest category in terms of value was HS441873 exceeding that of HS 441879.

The main shippers of assembled flooring in January were China 59%, up from slightly from a month earlier, the US 12%, Vietnam 11% with a further 6% being shipped from Indonesia.



Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

**Plywood imports**

Of the four main suppliers of plywood (HS441210-39) to Japan it was only those in Indonesia that did not see a rise in shipments in January. Month on month there was a rise in import volumes from Malaysia in January (50,175 cu.m) but a decline in the volume from Indonesia (52,288 cu.m).

The volume of plywood imports from Vietnam in January was, once again, higher than that from China and was up month on month. Plywood imports from China began to decline in mid 2022 and bottomed out in mid 2023 and since have started to recover but are far from levels seen prior to 2022.

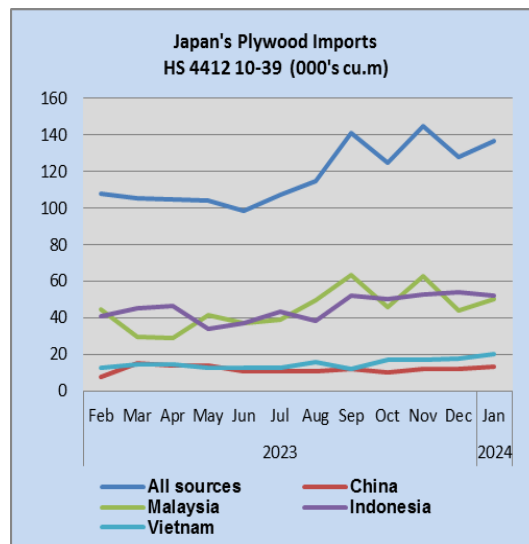
Of the various categories of plywood imported, 85% was HS441231 in January with HS441233 and HS441234 accounting for around 5% each. The four main shippers of plywood to Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and China consistently account for over 90% of plywood imports.



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

		China	Malaysia	Indonesia	Vietnam
2020	Jan	13.4	61.1	81.6	17.0
	Feb	6.8	72.2	63.8	9.5
	Mar	5.8	76.5	73.0	12.2
	Apr	13.0	68.0	69.0	13.6
	May	9.6	69.7	59.0	12.6
	Jun	10.3	52.0	61.0	11.3
	Jul	10.2	40.0	54.9	8.9
	Aug	6.6	55.0	56.0	8.4
	Sep	6.8	42.2	37.8	8.7
	Oct	8.3	62.4	52.7	10.1
	Nov	8.6	43.1	50.0	10.9
	Dec	9.2	60.5	43.9	10.8
2021	Jan	9.7	76.9	59.3	15.7
	Feb	6.8	53.5	50.1	13.0
	Mar	5.7	89.4	61.5	11.5
	Apr	11.4	65.9	58.2	17.3
	May	10.3	72.0	51.0	13.0
	Jun	10.5	61.9	56.6	15.6
	Jul	11.8	74.1	57.1	16.4
	Aug	12.8	54.7	57.8	17.5
	Sep	16.0	61.8	60.4	21.8
	Oct	12.6	72.8	60.4	22.5
	Nov	14.6	60.6	66.0	21.8
	Dec	13.6	51.2	76.5	21.0
2022	Jan	15.9	78.6	73.9	16.8
	Feb	14.7	61.0	56.8	11.4
	Mar	13.7	71.0	76.9	8.8
	Apr	25.0	79.3	72.0	13.1
	May	32.2	67.6	68.2	12.9
	Jun	37.5	61.4	52.4	18.4
	Jul	27.7	70.6	67.8	15.2
	Aug	19.0	63.0	70.8	18.5
	Sep	16.5	58.4	60.4	16.2
	Oct	13.4	39.2	65.5	17.1
	Nov	13.1	45.1	50.1	15.9
	Dec	13.9	49.2	47.1	21.6
2023	Jan	13.7	40.3	49.2	19.4
	Feb	7.8	44.9	40.6	12.9
	Mar	14.9	29.8	45.3	14.3
	Apr	13.8	28.7	46.3	14.6
	May	14.0	47.7	34.2	12.6
	Jun	10.7	36.9	37.2	12.7
	Jul	10.6	38.8	43.1	12.9
	Aug	10.6	49.6	38.1	15.7
	Sep	12.3	63.4	52.4	12.0
	Sep	10.5	46.1	50.3	17.2
	Nov	11.9	63.6	53.0	16.8
	Dec	12.1	43.5	54.0	17.7
2024	Jan	13.3	50.2	52.3	20.5

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan



Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

**Trade news from the Japan Lumber Reports (JLR)**

The Japan Lumber Reports (JLR), a subscription trade journal published every two weeks in English, is generously allowing the ITTO Tropical Timber Market Report to reproduce news on the Japanese market precisely as it appears in the JLR.

For the JLR report please see:  
[https://ifpj.jp/japan\\_lumber\\_reports/](https://ifpj.jp/japan_lumber_reports/)

**Quake damages in Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture**

There has been heavy damage at mountains and forests in Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture due to the massive earthquake. Production of raw material in 2022 was 113,000 cbms in Ishikawa Prefecture. About 30 – 40 % of raw materials are from Wajima City, Suzu City and Noto town where are damaged by the earthquake badly.

Forest Owners' Co-operative Association in Ishikawa Prefecture announced that three forest associations Ishikawa Prefecture, which had less damage by the earthquake, will supply raw materials for a forest association of Noto. The forest associations aim to supply a level of 90,000 cbms of raw materials annually.

**South sea logs and lumber**

Movement of hardwood still sluggish. Demand have been dull and movement of deck or laminated boards is sluggish. yen is 150 yen against the dollar and it is not good timing to purchase lumber.

Demand for South Sea lumber and Chinese lumber have not been increasing and the distributors in Japan expect to purchase lumber when the yen is strong.

Especially, the price of South Sea lumber is high in South Asia because of less South Sea logs so the foreign exchange is very important for Japanese buyers to purchase South Sea lumber or not.

The price of laminated boards in South Asia is unchanged from the previous month. Production is high in South Asia so laminated board manufacturers would not lower the price.

**Imported South Sea logs and lumber in 2023**

Import of South Sea logs in 2023 is 30,749 cbms, 34.8 % less than 2022. Import of South Sea lumber in 2023 is 136,298 cbms, 15.4 % less than last year. Imported laminated board in 2023 is 160,930 cbms, 16.4 % less than last year. Reasons are that there is low demand for South Sea logs and lumber in Japan and there are not enough South Sea logs in South Asia.

Local manufacturers in the state of Sabah and the state of Sarawak, Malaysia reduced producing South Sea lumber so there were not a lot of South Sea logs.

Logs in Papua New Guinea, which exports logs to China the most, were less because there were not a lot of inquiries from China due to the sluggish economy in China. Some manufacturers in Papua New Guinea, which produce and export logs and lumber to Japan, struggled to purchase logs through a year. South Sea products are popular for blocks for steels and for truck bodies in Japan.

**South Sea logs and lumber in 2023**

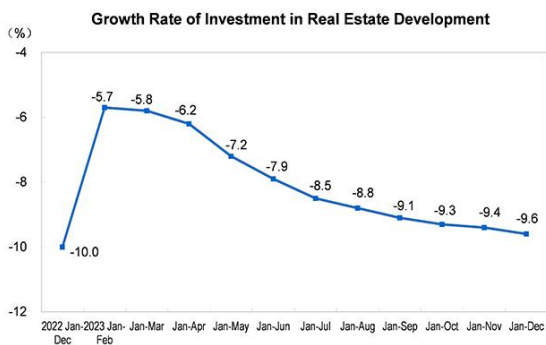
	Place	Volume
Logs	Sabah	8 (-)
	Sarawak	7 (27.8)
	PNG	13 (73.7)
	Total	30 (65.7)
Lumber	Lumber	136 (84.6)
	Laminated board	160 (83.6)

Unit : 000s cbms ( ) : 23 / 22 by %

**China**

**Investment in Real Estate Development in 2023**

The National Bureau of Statistics has reported that in 2023 investment in total real estate development dropped by almost 10% from the previous year and there was a decline of 9.3% in investment in residential buildings.



Source: National Bureau of Statistics

In 2023 the floor space under construction was 8,383 million square metres, down by 7% over the previous year of which the floor space for residential buildings under construction was down by 7.7%.

The floor space of buildings newly started was down by 20.4%, of which the floor space of residential buildings newly started was down by over 20%. Investment in real estate in the Eastern Region was down 5%, down 89% in the Central Region, down 19% in the Western Region and down 26% in the North Eastern region.

See: [https://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202402/t20240201\\_1947107.html](https://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202402/t20240201_1947107.html)

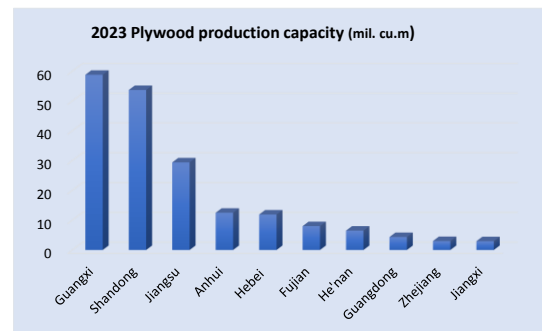
**Number of plywood production enterprises fell in 2023**

According to the Academy of Industry Development and Planning under the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) and the China Forestry Products Industry Association (CFPIA), the number of enterprises in China’s plywood industry continued to decline in 2023.

There were more than 7,400 plywood manufacturing enterprises in 2023, down 30% year on year, however, the production capacity declined only slightly year on year and stood at 205 million cubic metres in 2023.

For the first time Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region exceeded Shandong in plywood production capacity in 2023 and thus became the largest in terms of plywood production capacity. There were 1,430 mills in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region with a capacity of 58 million cubic metres or around 30% of the national total.

Shandong Province was the second largest in terms of plywood production capacity and still had the largest number of enterprises in 2023. There were 2,180 mills with a capacity of 54 million cubic metres or 26% of the national total.



Data source: NFGA and CFPIA

At the beginning of 2024 around 1,500 plywood production plants were under construction nationwide with a total annual production capacity of about 29 million cubic metres. 24 provinces and autonomous regions had plywood production enterprises under construction except Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Chongqing, Qinghai Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Sector analysts say the plywood industry must continuously adjust its product structure to adapt to changes in market demand and improve the quality of products and the image of the sector. It is expected that annual plywood production capacity in China will drop to 200 million cubic metres by the end of 2024.

Under current market conditions the supply capacity of China's plywood industry is greater than demand. The production of plywood for furniture making, home decoration and furnishing accounts for about 35% of the market in China and supply and demand in these markets is relatively well balanced.

In contrast, production capacity for concrete formwork plywood accounts for about 24% of the overall market and production capacity in this sector far exceeds current demand. The packaging plywood market was impacted by competition from Oriented Strand Board (OSB), so packaging plywood production declined and its market share was less than 22% of the national total. Blockboard production accounts for about 12% of the national panel product capacity and other products such as plywood for wood composite floor basic materials, container floors and veneer laminated wood etc. account for about 7% of the national total.

See: [https://www.wood365.cn/Industry/IndustryInfo\\_279784.html](https://www.wood365.cn/Industry/IndustryInfo_279784.html)

**Rise in plywood exports to UAE and Nigeria**

China Customs data shows plywood exports to UAE and Nigeria in 2023 rose 13% and 49% to 568,000 cubic metres and 464,000 cubic metres valued at US\$190 million and US\$150 million respectively. In contrast, China's plywood exports to Japan in 2023 fell 20% to 545,000 cubic metres valued at US\$265 million, down 33% year on year.

China exports plywood to more than 200 countries and markets and the market share of the top 10 countries for China's plywood exports in 2023 accounted for just 50% of the national total.

China's plywood exports totalled 10.769 million cubic metres valued at US\$4.817 billion in 2023, up 1% in volume but down 14% in value over 2022.

The Philippines and UK are China's two major markets for plywood but plywood exports to these two markets declined in 2023. Export volumes to the Philippines and UK fell 4% and 3% respectively. This has affected the export performance of China's plywood sector.

The US is no longer the main destination for Chinese exports. China's plywood exports to the United States totalled only 284,000 cubic metres in 2023 worth US\$210 million, down 33% in volume and 42% in value over 2022.

**Top export markets in 2023**

	000s cu.m	YoY % change	US\$ mil.	YoY % change
<b>Total</b>	10,769	1%	4,817	-14%
Philippines	956	-4%	349	-14%
UK	674	-3%	298	-13%
UAE	568	13%	190	-2%
Japan	545	-20%	265	-33%
Nigeria	464	49%	151	32%
Saudi Arabia	450	3%	150	-6%
Mexico	409	2%	173	-13%
Australia	401	-1%	295	-15%
Thailand	339	-3%	145	-8%
Vietnam	327	-5%	135	-16%

Data source: China Customs

**Plywood imports from Russia**

According to data from China Customs, plywood imports in 2023 totalled 295,000 cubic metres valued at US\$206 million, up 51% in volume and 9% in value over 2022.

Russia was the largest supplier of plywood to China in 2023. China's plywood imports from Russia rose 107% to 239,000 cubic metres accounting for 81% of the national total import volume.

Chinese enterprises have built factories in Russia to manufacture plywood and export to China via the China-Europe railway and these enterprises account for most of the increased exports.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan and Finland were also suppliers of plywood imports in 2023. China's plywood imports from Finland rose but from Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan fell in 2023. China's plywood imports from the top 5 suppliers made up 93% of the national total in 2023.

**Top suppliers of China's plywood imports in 2023**

	000s cu.m	YoY % change	US\$ mil.	YoY % change
<b>Total</b>	295	51%	206	9%
Russia	239	107%	134	76%
Indonesia	16	-14%	7	-17%
Malaysia	8	-12%	6	-42%
Japan	7	-21%	6	-20%
Finland	7	24%	9	43%

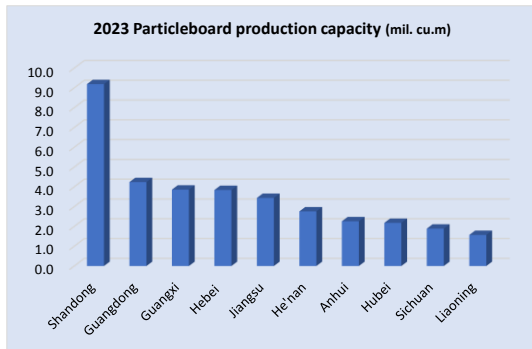
Data source: China Customs

**2023 particleboard production capacity**

According to statistics from the Academy of Industry Development and Planning under the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) and the China Forestry Products Industry Association (CFPIA), both the number of enterprises and total production capacity in China's particleboard industry rose in 2023.

There were more than 307 particleboard manufacturing enterprises in 2023, up 4% year on year. The total annual production capacity was 52.69 million cubic metres in 2023, up 27% over 2022.

Shandong Province was the largest in terms of particleboard production capacity in 2023. There were 71 mills with a capacity of 9.2 million cubic metres, accounting for 17% of the national total.



Data source: NFGA and CFPIA

China's particleboard sector has seen a sharp rise in investment say local commentators and this increases the risk of imbalance between supply and demand. It is forecast that mills now under construction will be operational within 12-24 months and the annual particleboard production capacity is expected to exceed 65 million cubic metres.

See: [https://www.sohu.com/a/758425006\\_100136197](https://www.sohu.com/a/758425006_100136197)

### Surge in particleboard exports to Chile

China Customs data shows particleboard exports totalled 395,000 tonnes valued at US\$275 million, up 7% in volume but down 28% in value over 2022. Taiwan P.o.C, Mongolia and Nigeria were the top 3 destinations in 2023. Taiwan P.o.C was the largest destination for China's particleboard exports in 2023, up 24% to 83,000 tonnes over 2022.

China's particleboard exports to Chile surged 118% to 19,000 tonnes valued at US\$8 million, up 118% over 2022. China exports of particleboard to Asia, Africa and Latin America mainly for construction work associated with the Belt and Road Initiative. The demand for low cost particleboard in Asia, Africa and Latin America has increased which has offered an opportunity for Chinese exporters.

### Top destinations of China's particleboard exports in 2023

	000s tonnes	YoY % change	US\$ mil.	YoY % change
Total	395	7%	275	-28%
Taiwan PoC	83	24%	32	-4%
Mongolia	37	-1%	11	38%
Nigeria	33	11%	12	-8%
Saudi Arabia	22	20%	12	18%
UAE	20	11%	11	24%
Vietnam	20	-0.10%	20	-73%
Chile	19	118%	8	118%
Malaysia	15	48%	13	-28%

Data source: China Customs

### Surge in particleboard imports from Poland

Particleboard imports reached 757,000 tonnes valued at US\$336 million in 2023, down 2% in volume and 18% in value over 2022. Thanks to the China-Europe freight train, China has become Poland's second largest trading partner and second largest source of imports. China's particleboard imports from Poland surged in 2023.

### Top suppliers of China's particleboard imports in 2023

	000s tonnes	YoY % change	US\$ mil.	YoY % change
Total	757	-2%	336	-18%
Thailand	273	89%	66	55%
Romania	122	-20%	90	-14%
Brazil	97	-32%	38	-41%
Russia	58	-26%	21	-36%
Germany	48	-36%	29	-40%
Belarus	36	197%	14	198%
Malaysia	29	-33%	8	-42%
Poland	29	surged	22	surged

Data source: China Customs

In 2023 particleboard imports from Thailand exceeded those from Romania and became the largest supplier in 2023. The volume of China's particleboard imports from Thailand rose 89% to 273,000 tonnes valued at US\$66 million, up 55% over 2022.

China's particleboard imports from Belarus also surged in 2023. In contrast, particleboard imports from Romania, Brazil, Russia, Germany and Malaysia fell in 2023 which drove down overall imports.

### China GTI indices for February

In February, the GTI-China index registered 31.7%, a decrease of 2.4 percentage points from the previous month and was below the critical value (50%) for 3 consecutive months indicating that the business prosperity of the timber enterprises represented by the GTI-China index declined from last month. In February, in celebration of the Spring Festival, most of the timber enterprises halted production resulting in a significant decrease of trading activities.

As for the 11 sub-indices, the purchase price index was above the critical value of 50%, while the remaining 10 sub-indexes were all below the critical value. Compared to the previous month, the sub-indices for export orders, existing orders, purchase prices, inventory of main raw materials, and employees increased.

The sub-indices for production, new orders, inventory of finished products, purchase quantity, import and delivery time declined by 1.2 - 8.9 percentage points.

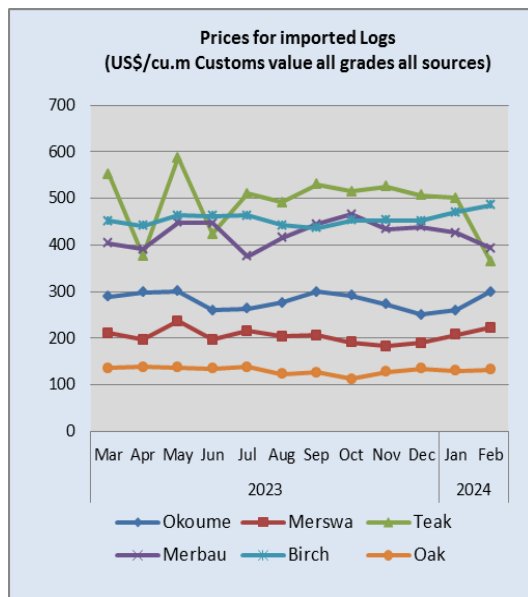
**Main challenges reported by GTI-China enterprises**

- There was a slight increase in shipping costs
- Orders were insufficient and it was difficult to receive the final payments.
- The production volume decreased compared with previous years and the costs of running equipment increased as a result of intermittent operations.
- China's timber market was sluggish due to a downturn in real estate transactions.

**Average CIF prices, logs US\$/cu.m**

	2024 Jan	2024 Feb
Okoume	260	300
Merswa	207	222
Teak	501	365
Merbau	426	393
Birch	470	485
Oak	130	132

Data source: Customs, China



Data source: Customs, China

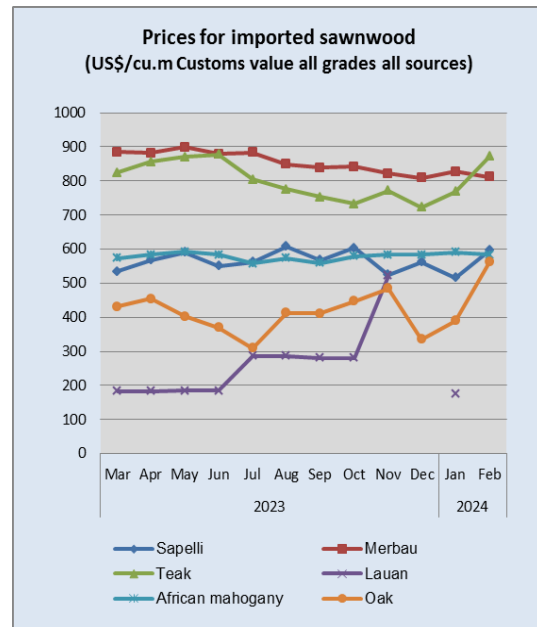
**Average CIF prices, sawnwood, US\$/cu.m**

	2024 Jan	2024 Feb
Sapelli	516	597
Merbau	828	812
Teak	769	872
Lauan	175	
African mahogany	590	583
Oak	390	562

Data source: Customs, China

In tonnage terms this was the lowest on record, 8% less than the previous low of 430,000 tonnes in 2015 (Chart 1). This is around half the level of tropical wood imports into

the UK typical two decades ago before the 2007-2008 recession.



Data source: Customs, China

**Through the eyes of industry**

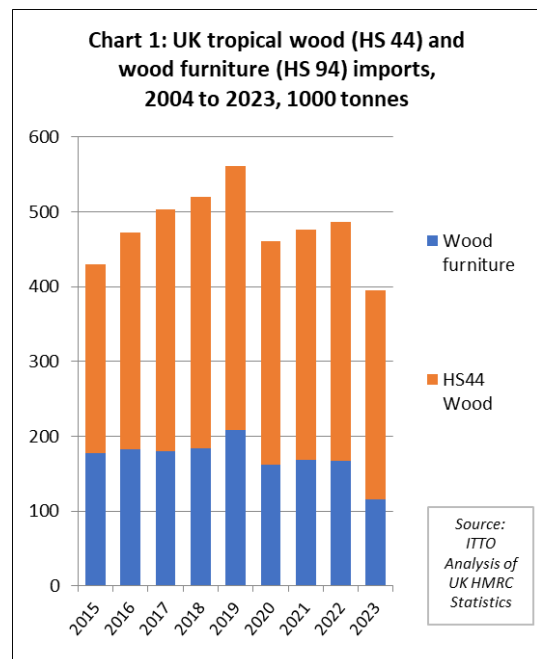
The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in China.

<https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20240319/1710813683173232.pdf>

**UK**

**UK tropical wood and wood furniture imports at all time low in 2023**

In 2023, the UK imported 395,500 tonnes of tropical wood and wood furniture products with a total value of \$940 million, respectively 13% and 33% less than the previous year.



In tonnage terms this was the lowest on record, 8% less than the previous low of 430,000 tonnes in 2015 (Chart 1 above). This is around half the level of tropical wood imports into the UK typical two decades ago before the 2007-2008 recession.

UK imports of tropical wood and wood furniture in the fourth quarter of 2023 were 87,834 tonnes, lower even than the 89,111 tonnes imported in the second quarter of 2020 when the country was at a standstill during the first COVID lockdown. The fourth quarter figures were 16% down on the previous quarter, and 2% less than same period the previous year.

Underlying the historically low levels of import is the weakness of the UK economy. According to the Office of National Statistics, the UK economy was in recession in the second half of 2023, shrinking by 0.1% in the third quarter and by 0.3% in the fourth quarter.

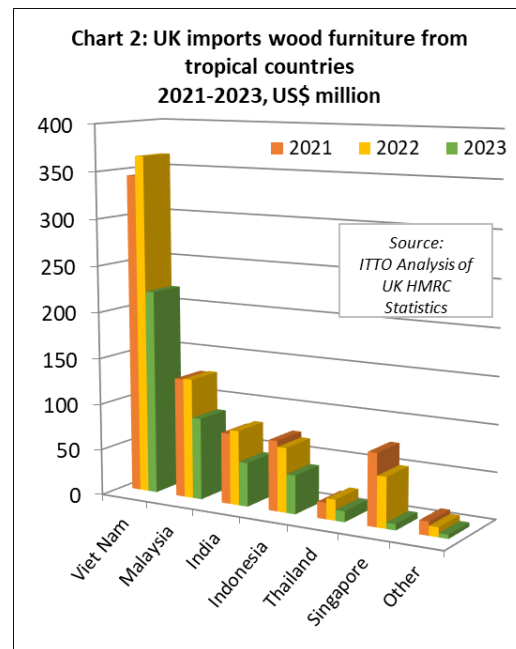
Due to stronger growth in the first two quarters of 2023, GDP in the UK is estimated to have increased by just 0.1% over the full year. The Bank of England predicts the UK economy will grow by just 0.25% in 2024.

The UK Construction Products Association Winter Forecast predicts growth in the UK building sector in 2024, but by only 0.6%. This follows a contraction of 4.7% in 2023. “Both private housing and private housing repair, maintenance and improvement are forecast to be the worst affected by the prevailing economic conditions of flatlining growth, stubborn inflation and interest rates remaining [relatively high] throughout 2024,” said the CPA.

**UK import value of tropical wood furniture down 43% year-on-year**

Of all wood products imported into the UK from the tropics, furniture declined the most last year. The UK imported USD420 million of tropical wood furniture products in 2023, 43% less than the previous year. In quantity terms, wood furniture imports were 115,700 tonnes in 2023, 24% less than in 2022.

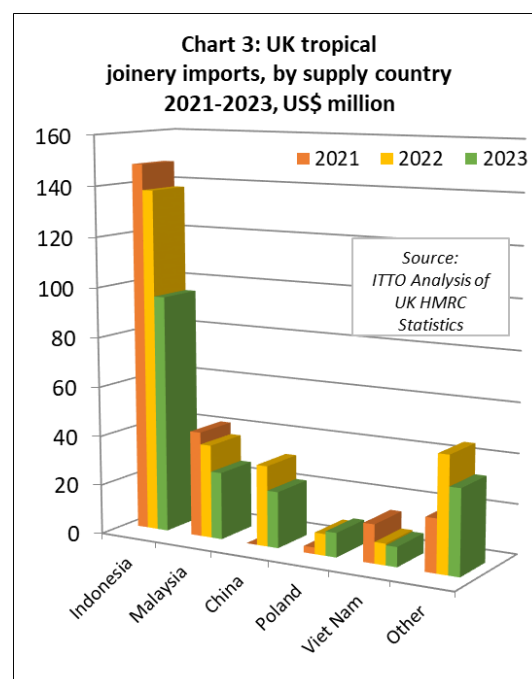
Tropical wood furniture imports in 2023 decreased for all leading supply countries to the UK including Vietnam (-40% to USD220 million), Malaysia (-32% to USD88 million), India (-41% to USD47 million), Indonesia (-40% to USD42 million), Thailand (-48% to USD12 million), and Singapore (-88% to USD6.6 million) (Chart 2).



**UK joinery imports decline from all leading tropical supply countries**

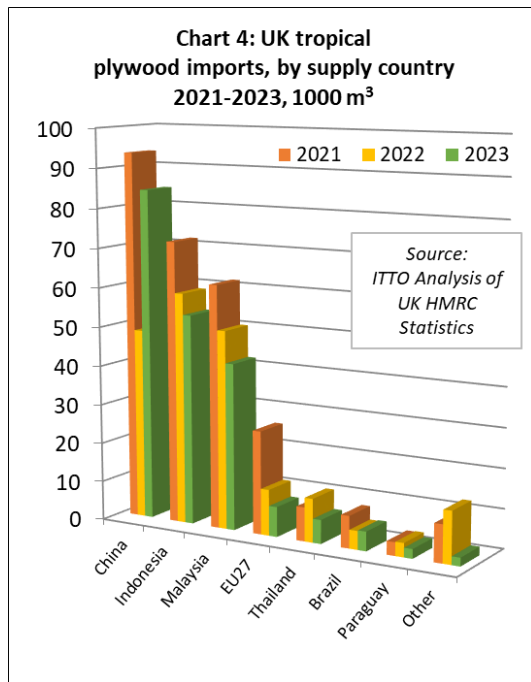
Total UK import value of tropical joinery products fell 27% to USD196 million in 2023 and import quantity was down 14% to 69,800 tonnes. UK import value of joinery products from Indonesia (mainly doors) was USD96 million in 2023, down 30% year-on-year.

Imports from Malaysia (mainly laminated products for kitchen and window applications) fell 28% to USD27 million in 2023. UK import value of Chinese tropical joinery products, nearly all doors, was USD22 million in 2023, 30% less than the previous year. UK import value on joinery products from Vietnam declined 7% to USD8 million during the year (Chart 3).



**UK direct imports of tropical hardwood plywood offset by rise from China**

In 2023, the UK imported 203,600 cu.m of tropical hardwood plywood, 1% less than the previous year. Import value fell more sharply, by 29% to USD188 million. A large decline in direct imports of higher-value tropical hardwood plywood from tropical countries was offset by a rise in imports of lower-value plywood with an outer layer of tropical hardwood from China (Chart 4).



The UK imported 84,400 cu.m of plywood with an outer layer of tropical hardwood from China in 2023, 74% more than the previous year. This followed a sharp fall in UK imports of Chinese products faced with tropical hardwood in 2022 in favour of products faced with temperate hardwoods.

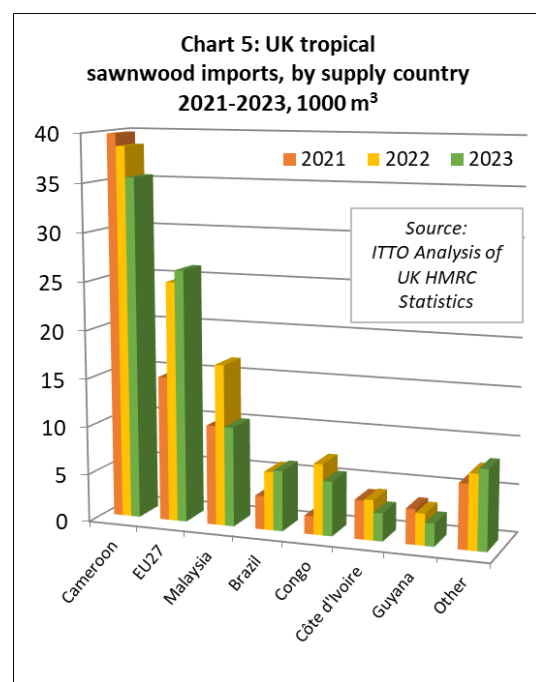
The rebound in UK imports of tropical wood plywood from China in 2023 may partly reflect UK buyers concern to avoid importing Chinese plywood containing Russian birch in contravention of UK sanctions on Russian wood products imposed following the invasion of Ukraine in February 2023.

UK imports of tropical hardwood plywood direct from tropical countries fell 22% to 111,600 cu.m in 2023. Imports were down 9% to 53,600 cu.m from Indonesia, down 16% to 42,400 cu.m from Malaysia, down 45% to 6,100 cu.m from Thailand, down 4% to 4,900 cu.m from Brazil and down 32% to 2,400 cu.m from Paraguay.

Meanwhile, the combined effects of supply shortages and rising energy and other material costs on the European continent continue to impact on UK imports of tropical hardwood plywood from EU countries which were just 7,600 cu.m in 2023, 35% less than the previous year.

**UK switches to indirect imports of tropical sawnwood from the EU**

UK imports of tropical sawnwood were 97,500 cu.m in 2023, 11% less than the previous year. Import value fell 10% to USD112 million during the year. Although UK imports of tropical sawnwood held up reasonably well compared to other tropical products in 2023, a larger share was sourced indirectly, in this case from the EU, rather than direct from the tropics (Chart 5).



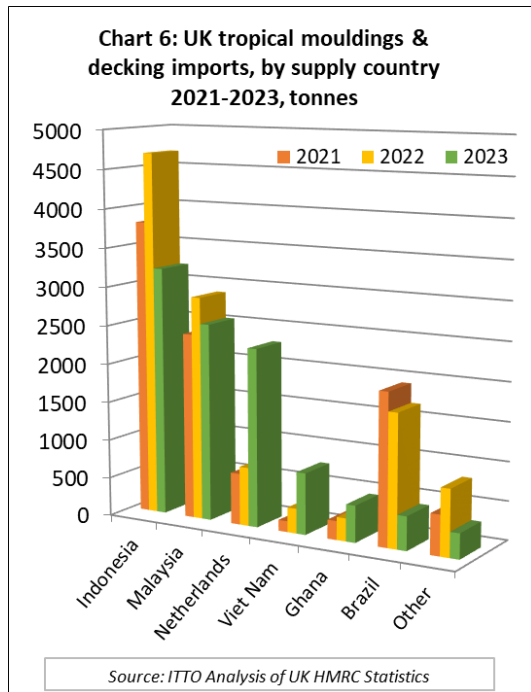
Indirect UK imports of tropical sawnwood via the EU were up last year despite the economic slowdown and Brexit disruption, increasing 5% to 26,200 cu.m. To some extent, UK's continuing dependence on indirect imports of tropical sawnwood from the EU is due to a shortage of kiln drying space in African supply countries combined with lack of any hardwood kiln drying capacity in the UK.

A large share (36% in 2023) of sawnwood sourced directly from the tropics by UK importers now comes from Cameroon. UK imports of tropical sawnwood from Cameroon were 35,500 cu.m in 2023, 8% less than the relatively high level in 2022. UK tropical sawnwood imports from Malaysia, which revived to some extent in 2022 after many years of decline, fell by 38% in 2023 to just 10,400 cu.m.

UK imports of tropical sawnwood from Brazil were 6,200 cu.m in 2023, a gain of 3% compared to the previous year. Imports from all other leading tropical supply countries declined including Republic of Congo (-23% to 5,600 cu.m), Cote d'Ivoire (-30% to 2,900 cu.m) and Guyana (-28% to 2,350 cu.m).

UK imports of tropical hardwood mouldings/decking fell 12% to 10,100 tonnes in 2023. Import value was down 20% to USD28 million. UK imports of mouldings/decking declined sharply last year from Indonesia (-31% to 3,200 tonnes), Malaysia (-12% to 2,550 tonnes), and Brazil (-74% to 440 tonnes).

In contrast, UK imports of this commodity group increased three-fold from the Netherlands to 2,300 tonnes, were up 147% from Vietnam to 790 tonnes, and increased 61% to 470 tonnes from Ghana (Chart 6).



**Mounting calls for delay to EU Deforestation Regulation**

In recent weeks a growing number of trade associations and some politicians, many representing interests inside the EU, have been raising concerns around the timetable for implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation.

The first real indication that the timetable may be slipping came on 7 March 2024 when the Financial Times (FT) published an article under the heading “EU delays stricter rules on imports from deforested areas”

See: <https://www.ft.com/content/8dab4dc6-197b-4a2f-86f0-d5e83ce00b09>

The story in this article is not as dramatic as implied by the headline. It does not suggest any delay to the legal requirements due to be imposed on EU operators from 31 December 2024 – prohibiting their trade in regulated products from deforested areas. Only that “Brussels will put off classification of countries into low, standard or high risk, which was due to be implemented by December [2024], instead designating every country as standard risk”.

Drawing on information from “three EU officials”, the FT claims that the “the EU intends to delay strict policing of imports from areas prone to deforestation after several governments in Asia, Africa and Latin America complained that the rules would be burdensome, unfair and scare off investors”.

The FT goes on to quote one “EC official” directly: “We will simply not classify which means everywhere will be medium risk — we need more time to get the system in place. We have had a lot of complaints from partners. [The delay] means no country will have an advantage over another.”

While the FT article does not itself imply that other aspects of the law’s implementation will be delayed, it prompted an immediate response from EU trade and industry associations who suggested that any delay to the risk classification of countries required that the obligations to be placed on EU operators must also be delayed.

The case for this wider delay in EUDR implementation was made in a joint declaration issued on 12 March by six European organisations, namely: the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), the European Furniture Industries Confederation (EFIC), the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS), the European Panel Federation (EPF), the European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF), and the European Federation of the Parquet industry (FEP).

The industry statement, which is available at <https://www.efic.eu/joint-statement-on-eudr>, suggests that “the benchmarking of countries is a central part of the EUDR and its implementation, and any delays related to this classification will only result in additional costs and administrative burden for market actors, without any real advantages either for the producing countries or for the CAs [EU Member State Competent Authorities]”.

The statement goes on to suggest that under EUDR “whether market actors source their commodities from standard risk countries or from high-risk countries, they are facing the same due diligence obligations. Simply put, the benefit implied by the seemingly planned delay of the country risk benchmarking does not exist because no simplified procedure for export or imports is actually foreseen for standard risk countries, compared to high risk countries”.

The six European organisations signing the statement expressed their regret that “the EUDR has become a huge administrative and regulatory monster” and urged “the EU institutions to delay the entry into application of the EUDR for the operators and traders to amend the EUDR in order to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and to provide actors with sufficient time to adapt for full and adequate compliance”. They also called on the European Commission to “swiftly proceed with the classification of the low-risk countries, with this action being its main priority”.



Concerns about the implementation timetable for EUDR were also raised by 19 wood trade organisations in France in a joint letter to the French Environment Minister on 13 March. This states that, “all the trade organisations that have signed this letter support the introduction of a legal instrument to guarantee that wood and wood-derived products have no impact on deforestation. However, the principle of ‘strict traceability’ and the processes envisaged by the EUDR are fraught with implementation difficulties and still raise questions of interpretation”.

The letter goes on to make specific reference to the results of the pilot test of the “information system” where due diligence statements, including geolocation data of all plots of land from which regulated products are harvested must be entered for every consignment imported into, or exported from, the EU market. The pilot test was undertaken between December 2023 and January 2024. The letter notes that “among the 112 European companies taking part in this test were several French companies in the forestry, wood and paper industry”.

After summarising six specific areas of weakness in the information system based on the experience of the French companies, the letter concludes that in view of “the extraordinary complexity of this [legal] text, its legal weaknesses and its many uncertainties...this European Regulation is inoperable for both operators and traders”.

The signatories of the joint letter therefore call for a revision of the EUDR after the European elections and ask the French Environment Minister to raise the issue at a meeting they say is scheduled on April 3rd about the EUDR with the Belgian Presidency.

A sign of the mounting momentum behind the calls for a delay to the EUDR came in a Reuters news report which stated that at a closed-door meeting of the European Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 26 March “Agriculture ministers from 20 of the EU's 27 member countries supported a call by Austria to revise the law”.

The report quotes a statement by Austria's agriculture minister Norbert Totschnig that “We now urge the Commission for a temporary suspension of the regulation allowing for a feasible implementation accompanied by a revision of the regulation”. Reuters report that Ministers from France, Italy, Poland, and Sweden were among the supporters of this position.

Judging by comments of the German Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture on the doorstep to the meeting on 26 March 2024, the call for delay is also supported by Germany. The Minister welcomed the EUDR “as a milestone [...] for protecting the global forests [...] and human rights [...]” but also emphasised that “during the implementation the aim must be clear...the way must be flexible”.

The Minister went on to note that “Germany is a low-risk country, our forests are growing – an aspect that should also be taken into account by other EU Member States”.

He called on the European Commission to “urgently extend the actual transition phase” suggesting that “if it does not quickly succeed in doing so, the law cannot be implemented for Germany as it would result in an unbearable workload for our economy, but especially for our [Competent Authority] and SMEs” (the above is an unofficial transcript of comments made by the Minister in German (at 7:57 minutes) in the doorstep interview at: <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/253320>)

#### **Legal and political obstacles to EUDR delay**

While these calls are being made for a delay to EUDR implementation, there appear to be very significant legal and political obstacles to these being acted upon. As a representative of the European Forest Owners Federation (CEPF) has suggested (in the latest newsletter of the German GD Holz wood trade association) “a postponement is unrealistic, as this would require a new legislative procedure involving the Parliament, Commission and Council (the EUDR having already come into force in mid-2023)”.

In public statements, European Commission officials are not countenancing any talk of delay or flexible interpretation of the law. According to the Reuters report on 26 March, the EU Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius “questioned why countries had raised concerns about the policy a few months before EU Parliament elections in June, when they had spent years negotiating the deforestation law and approved it last year.” The Commissioner is reported to have told a news conference that “of course, we will listen to the arguments, but I honestly don't see any issues.”

Similarly, according to a MercoPress article, on 8 March EC Environment envoy Emanuele Pitto told Paraguayan exporters in Asunción that there “would be no turning back from Rule 1115 [EUDR] banning raw materials and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation”.

The EC envoy emphasised to his Paraguayan audience that “all those involved get acquainted with the regulation and understand that the requirements are adapted to the needs of consumers”. He said that “if Paraguay wants to continue exporting to the countries of the bloc, if it is interested, it will do so by adapting to the [EUDR] requirements, but not of the European Union, but of the consumers”.

This implied, said the envoy, that exporters wanting to supply the EU must “demonstrate the origin of their products and that they are free of deforested land, for which the country needs a traceability tool or system that can geolocate whether or not the product comes from deforested land”. Furthermore in “case of non-compliance, sanctions and confiscations would ensue”

See <https://en.mercopress.com/2024/03/08/no-backtracking-on-rule-1115-eu-envoy-tells-paraguayan-producers>).

The Financial Times returned to the subject of EUDR in an opinion piece headed “The global downside of European consumers’ green principles” published on 21 March. This comments that “Europe might be struggling for long-term economic growth, but its regulatory productivity is unsurpassed”

See: <https://www.ft.com/content/9ace290e-e51d-4a5e-b853-decfc55ffeb2>

The central observation of the FT article is that the EU’s regulatory drive is not at all due to the ‘protectionist’ instincts of domestic producers in the EU. Instead, “European public and consumer sentiment, or at least campaigners’ influence, is now one of the most powerful forces determining swaths of EU trade policy and hence global regulation”. This observation seems borne out by the fact that there seem to be at least as many objections to EUDR implementation now coming from the wood-working industry inside the EU, as from external suppliers of the regulated commodities.

Environmental campaigning organisations were also quick to criticise the calls for a delay to EUDR. In an “open letter to EU governments” signed by 46 NGOs issued on 28 March the EU is urged to “uphold its commitment to combat global deforestation and forest degradation both at home and abroad”. “Any delay in implementation would hamper its credibility,” the NGOs wrote, adding: “We urge all Member States to be at the forefront of a fast and effective implementation of EUDR, instead of falling for industries’ lobbying efforts.”

The NGOs open letter is at:

[https://www.fern.org/fileadmin/uploads/fern/Documents/2024/The\\_EUDR\\_will\\_only\\_work\\_if\\_MS\\_start\\_implementation\\_now.pdf](https://www.fern.org/fileadmin/uploads/fern/Documents/2024/The_EUDR_will_only_work_if_MS_start_implementation_now.pdf)

### No expansion of regulations on imports

The UK Government has told members of parliament that it does not intend to extend its forthcoming ban on the sale of imported products linked to illegal deforestation to cover commodities linked to deforestation that is technically legal in the country of origin.

The possible implications for the tropical timber sector will be addressed in the next issue of this report.

The UK government statement can be found at:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/62/environmental-audit-committee/news/200626/government-rejects-committees-call-to-prohibit-products-from-legal-deforestation/>

### Home sales soar

Sales of previously owned homes in the US unexpectedly soared in February to the highest level in a year, despite surging mortgage rates that month, in a sign that buyers are returning to the market.

Existing home sales, which make up most of the housing market and include single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, rose 9.5% in February from the prior month to a seasonally adjusted annualised rate of 4.38 million units, the National Association of Realtors reported. That was the second straight month of rising sales and the largest monthly increase since February 2023.

A major driver for last month’s jump in sales was a sharp increase in the number of homes that came to market. Total housing inventory rose 5.9% in February from the prior month.

“Additional housing supply is helping to satisfy market demand,” said Lawrence Yun, NAR’s chief economist, in a release. “Housing demand has been on a steady rise due to population and job growth, though the actual timing of purchases will be determined by prevailing mortgage rates and wider inventory choices.”

In the West, existing-home sales skyrocketed 16.4% from a month ago to an annual rate of 850,000 in February, a decline of 1.2% from the prior year. Existing-home sales in the South leapt 9.8% from January to an annual rate of 2.02 million in February, down 2.9% from one year earlier. In the Midwest, existing-home sales jumped 8.4% from one month ago to an annual rate of 1.03 million in February, down 3.7% from the previous year. At 480,000 units, existing-home sales in the Northeast were identical to January but down 7.7% from February 2023. It’s the fourth consecutive month that home sales in the Northeast registered 480,000 units.

See: <https://www.nar.realtor/newsroom/existing-home-sales-vaulted-9-5-in-february-largest-monthly-increase-in-a-year>

### Housing starts rebound

Construction of new US homes bounced back strong in February, rising 10.7% to recover from a very weak month in January. Despite the increase, starts are still below December’s level.

Overall housing starts increased to an annual pace of 1.52 million units, its biggest gain in nine months according to the Commerce Department’s monthly report. Also, the number of housing starts in January was revised slightly higher, to 1.37 million. Even with the upward revision, January still saw the biggest drop, 12.3%, since May 2022.

Single-family housing starts, which account for the bulk of homebuilding, surged 11.6% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.129 million units last month.

That was the highest level since April 2022. Single-family homebuilding jumped 40.2% in the Midwest and increased 16.6% in the densely populated South. It accelerated 16.4% in the Northeast but declined 15.4% in the West. Starts for housing projects with five units or more advanced 8.6% to a rate of 377,000 units.

The report from the Commerce Department also showed permits for the future construction of single-family housing units rose to more than a 1-1/2-year high in February.

"A lack of inventory and lower borrowing costs, over time, should be supportive of building activity," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics. "And a decline in mortgage rates should be positive for sales."

See: <https://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/current/index.html>

### **Multi-unit starts fuel Canadian housing growth**

Canadian housing starts increased by 14% in February from the previous month as groundbreaking increased on multiple-unit urban homes, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) data showed. The seasonally adjusted annualized rate of housing starts rose to 253,468 units from a revised 223,176 units in January, the CMHC said. That was higher than the 230,000 expected by economists.

When looking at year-over-year figures, February's housing starts were up 11%, with the increase driven entirely by higher multi-unit starts (e.g., apartments and condos) that increased 16%, while single-detached starts were down 14%.

"As the national housing shortage continues, the focus for developers continues to shift towards multi-unit construction in Canada's major centers," said CMHC chief economist Bob Dugan.

See: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/housing-markets-data-and-research/housing-data/data-tables/housing-market-data/monthly-housing-starts-construction-data-tables>

### **US builder confidence rises for a fourth month**

Builder confidence hit its highest mark since July 2023, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) reported. The NAHB said a continued lack of existing housing inventory is still driving buyers to new home construction. Additionally, strong demand and declining mortgage rates are adding to the push toward new homes.

Builder confidence in the market for newly built single-family homes climbed three points to 51 in March, according to the latest NAHB /Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI).

The latest reading marks the fourth consecutive monthly gain for the index. It is also the first time the sentiment level has surpassed the breakeven point of 50 since last July.

"Buyer demand remains brisk and we expect more consumers to jump off the sidelines and into the marketplace if mortgage rates continue to fall later this year," said NAHB Chairman Carl Harris, a custom home builder from Kansas.

See: <https://eyeonhousing.org/2024/>

### **Cooling of jobs market increases chance of Fed cutting interest rates**

The US economy added 275,000 jobs in February, a stronger-than-expected gain that shows the foundation for economic growth remains quite sturdy. February marked the 38th consecutive month of job growth (the fifth-longest period of employment expansion on record), and the 25th consecutive month that the nation's jobless rate has been below 4%, the longest stretch in more than 50 years, BLS data shows.

Still, the report also showed that the whopping gains initially recorded for January and December were revised down by a combined 167,000 jobs. January's job gains now sit at an estimated 229,000 (down from 353,000); and December's job growth at 290,000 (down from 333,000). Unemployment rose to 3.9% in February as more people returned to the workforce.

The data may calm fears that the economy is overheated and might increase the likelihood that the US central bank would begin to move to cut interest rates. "I see this as increasing the probability that the Fed acts a little bit sooner than previously anticipated," former St. Louis Fed President James Bullard said. Bullard said the rise in the unemployment rate rising to 3.9% will "get people's attention." That's the highest unemployment rate in just over two years.

In February, employment continued to trend up in construction (+23,000), in line with the average monthly gain of 18,000 over the prior 12 months. Employment showed little change over the month in construction.

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

### **Consumer sentiment stabilises**

Consumers became slightly less optimistic about the economy this month, though they continue to expect inflation to cool further, a potential sign that price increases will keep slowing.

The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index slipped to 76.5 in March, barely below February's figure of 76.9. Americans' outlook has essentially remained fixed since January, when it leapt higher. Sentiment is now about halfway between its all-time low, reached in June 2022 when inflation peaked, and its pre-pandemic averages. Americans' outlook on the economy will likely have a significant effect on the presidential race, which will likely focus heavily on perceptions of President Joe Biden's economic record.

“Consumer views have stabilized into a holding pattern,” said UM Survey of Consumers Director Joanne Hsu. “Indeed, many are withholding judgment about the trajectory of the economy, particularly in the long term, pending the results of this November’s election.”

See: <http://www.sca.isr.umich.edu/>

**US manufacturing sector still shrinking**

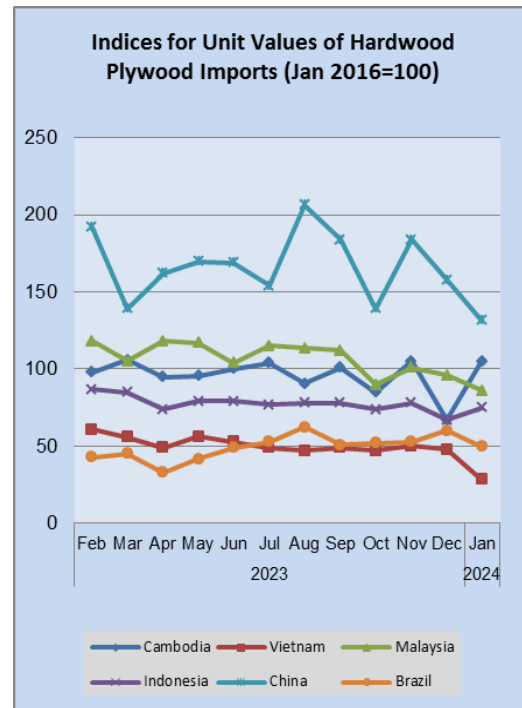
U.S. manufacturing slumped further in February, with a measure of factory employment dropping to a seven-month low amid declining new orders.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said that its manufacturing PMI fell to 47.8 last month from 49.1 in January. It was the 16th straight month that the PMI remained below 50, which indicates contraction in manufacturing. That is the longest such stretch since the period from August 2000 to January 2002.

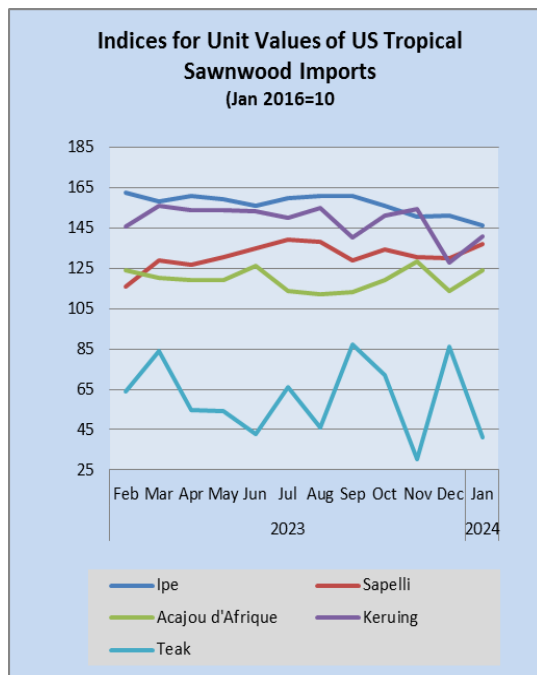
However, for the first time in several months, more industries reported growth than contraction. “Demand is at the early stages of recovery,” said Timothy Fiore, chairman of the survey, “as panelists’ companies begin to prepare for expansion.”

Both the Furniture & Related Products industry and the Wood Products industry reported contraction in February. Furniture & Related Products also reported a decline in new orders while Wood Products reported growth in new orders for February.

See: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/us-manufacturing-sector-struggling-to-recover-ism/ar-BB1jb1Su>



Data source: US Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics



Data source: US Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics

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

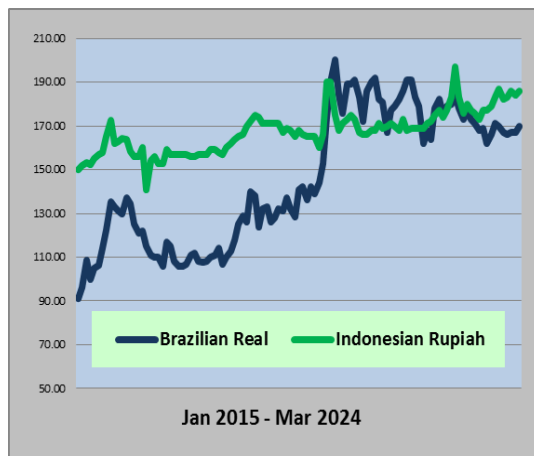
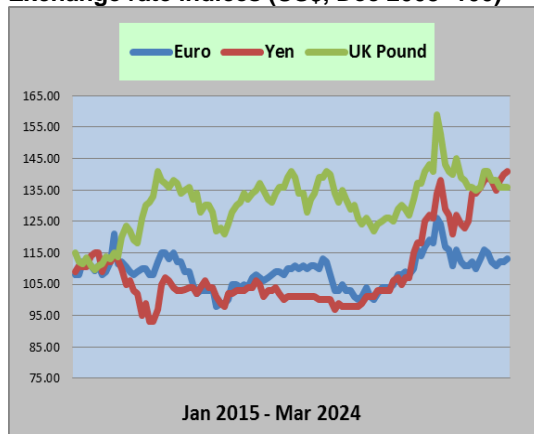
The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the correspondents and do not necessarily reflect those of ITTO

## US Dollar Exchange Rates

As of 25 March 2024

Brazil	Real	5.007
CFA countries	CFA Franc	606.06
China	Yuan	7.23
Euro area	Euro	0.93
India	Rupee	83.60
Indonesia	Rupiah	15,810
Japan	Yen	151.46
Malaysia	Ringgit	4.74
Peru	Sol	3.78
UK	Pound	0.79
South Korea	Won	1,344.64

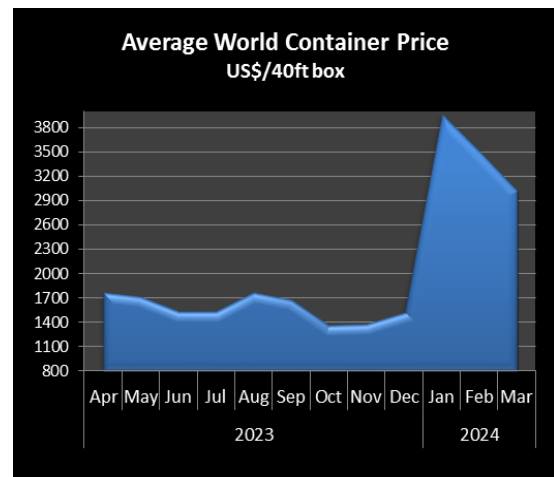
Exchange rate indices (US\$, Dec 2003=100)



## Abbreviations and Equivalences

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

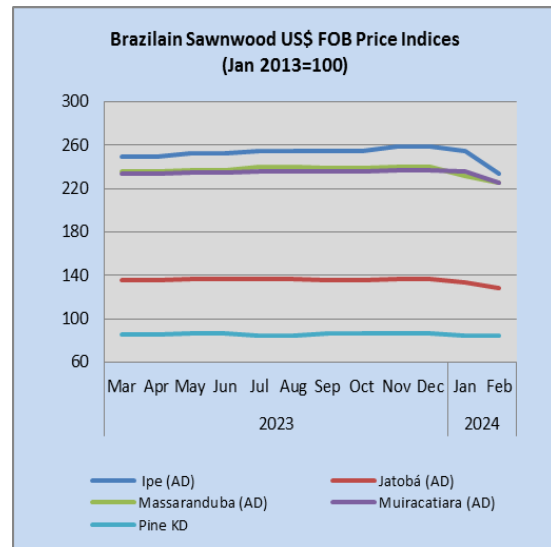
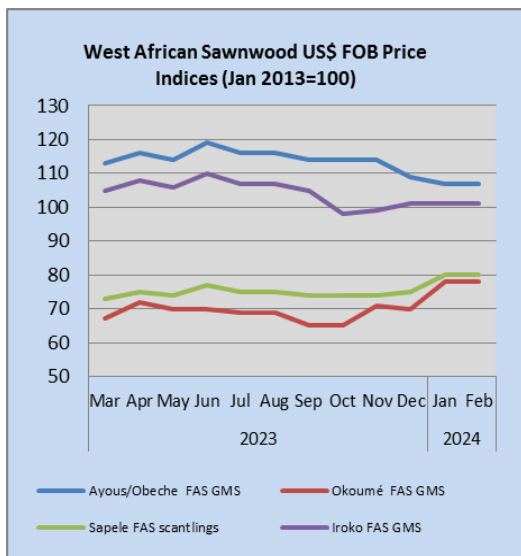
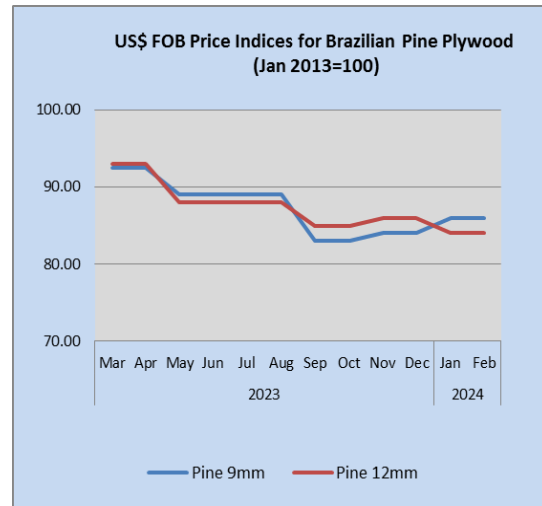
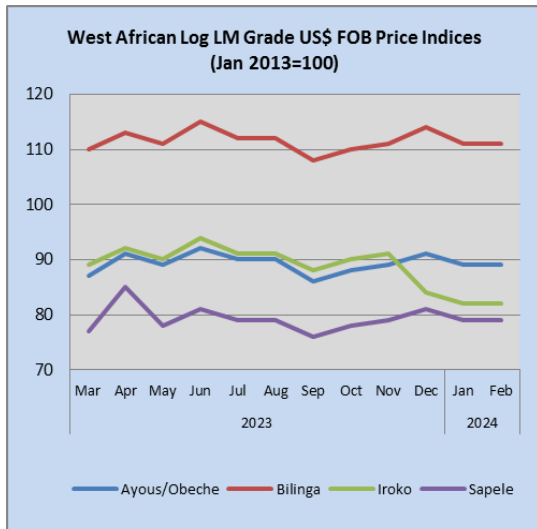
## Ocean Container Freight Index



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

**Price indices for selected products**

The following indices are based on US dollar FOB prices



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

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