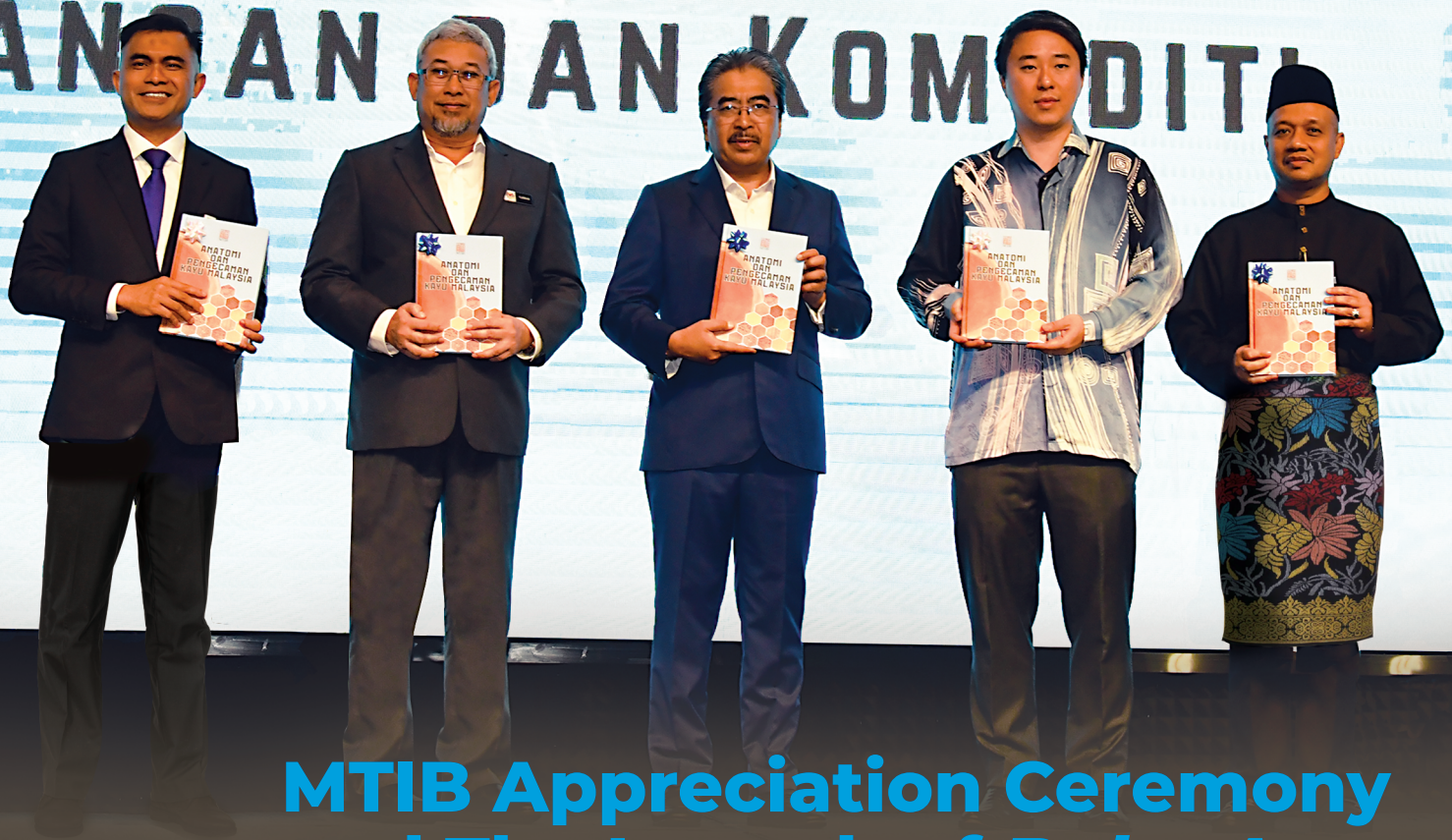


BERNAKAN OLEH JOHARI ABDUL GHANI ANALISAN DAN KOMODITI



MTIB Appreciation Ceremony and The Launch of *Buku Asas Pengecaman & Anatomi Kayu MTIB*

- Discussion Session on Raw Material Supply Issues for Malaysia's Timber Industry
- Polypalm Wood Products Sdn. Bhd.: Engineered and Solid Timber Flooring Manufacturer

Content

HIGHLIGHTS

3 MTIB Appreciation Ceremony and The Launch of *Buku Asas Pengecaman & Anatomi Kayu MTIB*

4 Discussion Session on Raw Material Supply Issues for Malaysia's Timber Industry



REGULAR FEATURES

5 Company Profile : Polypalm Wood Products Sdn. Bhd.

7 Timber Round Up

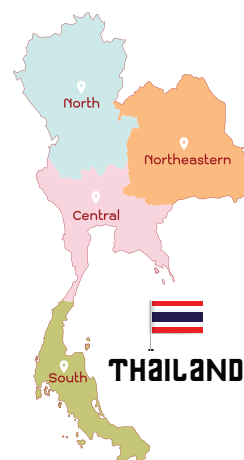
14 Market Profile: Timber Industry Development In Thailand

21 Timber World In Brief

27 Shipping & Domestic News

34 Timber Species

36 MTIB Moment



Cover: For more details please read page 3

CHIEF EDITOR

Saiful Bahri Salleh

EDITORIAL MEMBERS

Ts. Farydatul Nazly Mohd Zin
Mohd Amin Kadir
Noorazimah Sarkom@Haji Othman
Mohd Nizam Hamid
Suga @ Mazree Iman
Mohd Afthar Amir
Dr. Haji Norazli Haji Ismail
Ts. Muhamad Faizul Razilah

Nor Liza Mat Yasok
Mohd Tarmim Ismail
Syaidatul Nadia Hussin
Rahilah Yusof
Muhammad Fariz Idham Mat Zaki

PUBLISHER

MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD

Level 13 - 17, Menara PGRM, 8,
Jalan Pudu Ulu, Cheras,
56100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
603-9282 2235
603-9200 3769/9283 9792 (Faks)
info@mtib.gov.my
www.mtib.gov.my



SIRIM



074

CERTIFIED TO ISO 9001 : 2015
CERT. NO. QMS 01285



MTIB Appreciation Ceremony and The Launch of *Buku Asas Pengecaman & Anatomi Kayu MTIB*

Prepared by: Puan Norpaezah Mohd Dahalan

YB Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, Minister of Plantation and Commodities officiated the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) Appreciation Ceremony and the launch of *Buku Asas Pengecaman & Anatomi Kayu MTIB*, on 24 April 2025 at Vivatel Hotel in Cheras. During the event, 30 MTIB staff received the Excellence Service Award (APC) for their outstanding work performance, commitment and dedication.

YB Datuk Seri Johari noted that *Buku Asas Pengecaman & Anatomi Kayu MTIB* focuses on timber identification and the anatomical characteristics of commercial Malaysian timber species. It is a valuable resource for MTIB employees, the timber industry, educational institutions and other stakeholders as understanding timber species properties will clearly help businesses enhance product quality, meet industry standards and gain a competitive advantage.

YB Datuk Seri Johari also emphasised that as the Malaysian timber industry grows, MTIB must remain focused on providing essential training to MTIB staff. In addition,

recognising outstanding employees and developing industry-specific knowledge are also vital for the industry's continued success.

YB Datuk Seri Johari then presented the Audit and Control Self-Assessment (ACSA) Award to regional offices with the highest audit ratings from MTIB's Internal Audit department. This award highlights MTIB's commitment to transparency, effective management, accountability and financial oversight as a strong audit system is essential for supporting integrity.

More than three hundred guests attended the event. Also present were Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK) Secretary-General, YBhg. Dato' Yusran Shah Mohd Yusof; KPK Deputy Secretary-General (Strategic Planning and Management), YBhg. Dato' Abdul Hadi Omar; MTIB Chairman, YB Datuk Larry Sng Wei Shien; and MTIB Director-General, YBrs. Tuan Saiful Bahri Salleh. 



Discussion Session on Raw Material Supply Issues for Malaysia's Timber Industry

Prepared by: Encik Zulhelmi Mohd Ali



Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) conducted a discussion session with timber industry players on 21 April 2025 at MTIB. The discussion aimed to provide a platform to discuss on matters pertaining to raw material issues and challenges that are currently being faced by the local timber industry and to receive feedback from the industry on ways to strengthen the sustainability of the industry.

The discussion was led by YB Datuk Larry Sng Wei Shien, Chairman of MTIB. The discussion commenced with the Chief Executive Officer of FPDSB highlighting the status of the Forest Plantation Development Programme (FPDP) in Malaysia. As of 2024, a total of over 127,815 hectares of forest plantations has been developed under FPDP, focusing on fast-growing species such as Accacia, Rubberwood, Batai and Kelampayan/ Laran. He also noted that FPDP is part of Malaysia's long-term strategy to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials for the timber industry.

Throughout the discussion, the participants raised several critical issues, as follows:

- 1 Insufficient Raw Material Supply:** Many manufacturers reported facing difficulties in securing a steady supply of logs and suitable raw materials due to increased competition and declining harvests from natural forests.
- 2 Labour Shortage:** There is a shortage of local and foreign workers as well as lack of skilled workers in the plantation industry.
- 3 Increasing Operational Costs:** Plantation operational costs continue to rise, resulting in higher raw material pricing, ultimately placing significant financial strain on the manufacturers, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- 4 Export Market Pressures:** Global market demand is shifting toward certified and sustainably sourced timber products. Without sufficient supply from

certified forest plantations, many Malaysian exporters risk losing market share to competitors from countries with forest plantation certifications.

- 5 Policy and Regulatory Bottlenecks:** Issues affecting permit approvals for logging and harvesting, as well as difference procedures and guidelines across states, have disrupted production timelines.

The discussion concluded with several solution proposals that required further action as follows:

- 1 Strengthening Collaboration:** Participants agreed on the need for stronger collaboration between the Government, manufacturers and forest plantation companies to address issues in the plantation development process.
- 2 Policy Reform:** Suggestions were made to review and streamline existing policies related to forest land use to support more efficient raw material supply chains.
- 3 Incentivising Investments:** There was also a call for greater financial incentives and support schemes to encourage private sector investment in forest plantations.

The discussion session was well received from both timber and forest plantation companies in ensuring resilience in raw material supply and global competitiveness.

The discussion was attended by YBrs. Tuan Saiful Bahri Salleh, Director General of MTIB; YBrs. Encik Mohd Amin Kadir, Deputy Director General (Management and Operation) of MTIB; representatives from the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK), The Malaysian Panel-Products Manufacturers' Association (MPMA) and forest plantation companies; MTIB senior officers; and Forest Plantation Development Sdn. Bhd. (FPDSB) officers.



POLYPALM WOOD PRODUCTS SDN. BHD.

ENGINEERED AND SOLID TIMBER FLOORING MANUFACTURER

Prepared by: Puan Arizah Talha

Polypalm Wood Products Sdn. Bhd. was incorporated in Malaysia on 13 October 2006 under the Companies Act, 1965 as a private company limited. As a pioneer company leading in producing high end products by utilisation of palm trunks, the company was established on the belief that there is a critical need for finding an alternative wood material as global concerns regarding forest loss and climate changes are on the rise.

Polypalm Wood Products Sdn. Bhd. Mission and Vision:

Mission

- To strengthen our company and brand reputation
- To inspire, engage and develop our staff
- To exceed our customers' expectation through value-driven expertise
- To provide a safe and stable work environment for our employees
- To provide leadership to our industry
- To attain a fair profit in the industry



Vision

- To be the absolute best what we do
- To always do quality work on time
- To be a positive force in the wood flooring industry

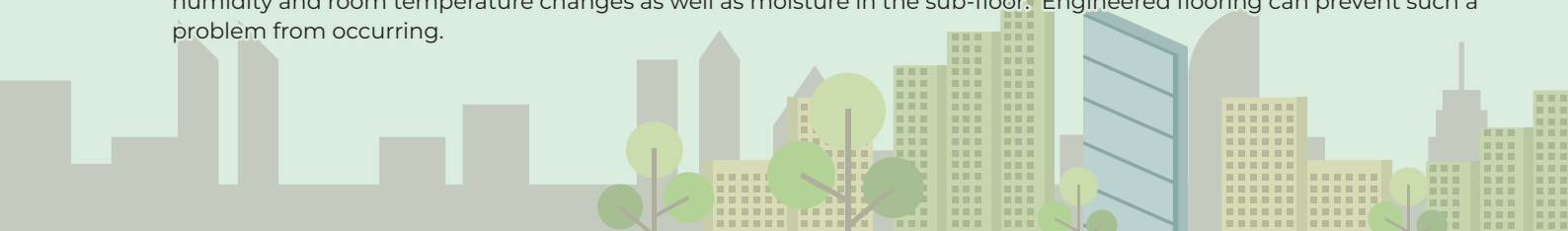


Polypalm Wood Products Sdn. Bhd. is located at Jalan Perusahaan, Kulim Industrial Estate, Kedah, Malaysia. Polypalm floorings are produced by using machines from Germany that meet the most stringent international production standards. Their floorings have been tested by the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM).

“Today, Polypalm exports to some of the world's most competitive markets among which are in Europe, Middle East and Asia.”

The company developed a new generation of green building materials that has added value in terms of being non-harmful, environmentally friendly, high performing and artfully crafted for a reinterpretation of spatial aesthetics.

Engineered flooring comprises several wood layers stuck to one another using high pressure. This method of construction helps to create wooden floorings which boasts higher strength and durability compared to a wooden floor of solid material. Most solid floorings have the tendency to shrink as well as expand. This happens because of room humidity and room temperature changes as well as moisture in the sub-floor. Engineered flooring can prevent such a problem from occurring.



PROJECT FOR REFERENCE

- Bluedream City Development Sdn Bhd @ Seri Kembangan, Selangor
- Tabung Haji Hotel @ Sepang
- Penang Chief Minister Office and Meeting Room, Engineered Merbau Wood Flooring
- MAXIS Garden, Bamboo Flooring
- Mid Valley, Wall Panelling Accenture
- The Infinitem, Engineered Stepboard and Flooring
- Galadari Hotel @ Sri Lanka, Engineered Flooring

CERTIFICATIONS

- CARB/EPA Certification
- FSC Certification

The company has also participated in various exhibitions under MTIB such as Homedec, Archidex dan BuildXpo in Kuala Lumpur.

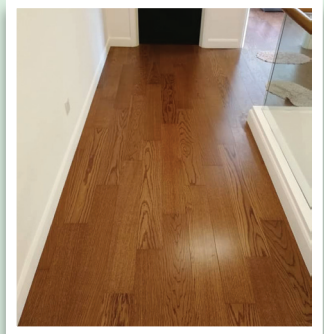
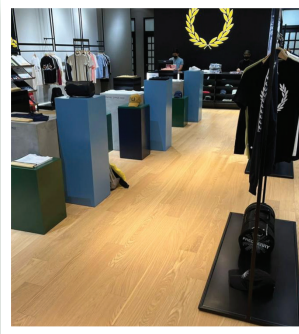


Archidex in KLCC, KL

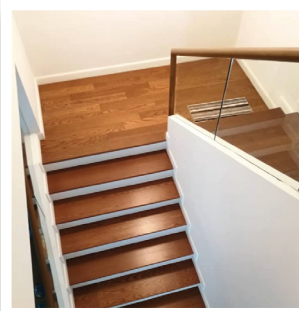
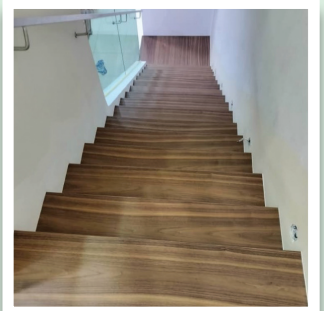
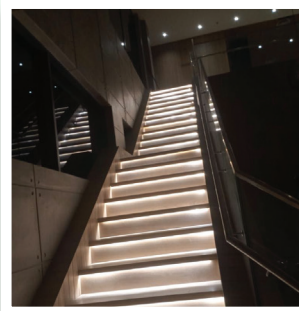


BuildXpo in MITEC, KL

Engineered floorboard used at Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein outlets throughout Malaysia.



Multilayer Engineered Step Boards with a top layer of 0.6mm Nyatoh, Vertical Bamboo and Burmese Teak veneer.



Awarded the contract to supply Multilayer Engineered Flooring and Stair Step Board for 1 block Commercial / SOHO 56 storey tower and 4 storey basements for The Infinitem, located at Jalan Dewan Sultan Sulaiman, Kuala Lumpur.



Polypalm Wood Products Sdn. Bhd.



NO. 7, Jalan Perusahaan,
Kulim Industrial Estate
09000 Kulim, Kedah, Malaysia



+604-489 3034 / +6012-474 2042



info@polypalm.com



www.polypalm.com



MARCH 2025



Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in March 2025 increased by 8% in value totalled at RM1.8 billion from the previous month. However, the cumulative exports for the period of January – March 2025 decreased by 5% valued at RM5.4 billion over RM5.7 billion in the previous corresponding year.

“Malaysia’s timber industry faces major challenges as the USA and the EU push to list key species namely Shorea (Meranti) and Apitong (Keruing) under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), citing environmental concerns and overharvesting despite Malaysia’s claims of sustainable practices.”

This move, combined with new tariffs, could severely restrict timber exports, especially to the USA. Malaysian stakeholders argue the push is influenced by foreign interests promoting domestic alternatives like US Red Oak. The industry, backed by government agencies, is working to counter the CITES listing and highlight the sustainability of its timber harvesting.

SAWN TIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in March 2025 increased by 24% in volume and 20% in value to 81,086 m³ totalling at RM165.9 million, as compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative exports for the period of January - March 2025 decreased by 6% in volume and 15% in value to 216,649 m³ worth RM425.7 million over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to the EU for the month were recorded at 3,790 m³, decreased by 31% compared to 5,450 m³ in the previous month. The Netherlands, as the main buyer, dropped its intake by 33% to 1,719 m³ from 2,577 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to Germany also decreased by 20% to 617 m³ while intake by Belgium grew by 3% to 464 m³ respectively. However, in other European countries, exports to the UK increased by 27% to 1,165 m³ from 918 m³ in the previous month.

Total export to South Asia also decreased by 0.3% to 7,887 m³ from 7,913 m³ as recorded in the previous month. India, as the main buyer from South Asia decreased buying by 11% to 4,095 m³ from 4,599 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to the Maldives dropped by 17% to 1,264 m³ but export to Sri Lanka increased by 46% to 1,643 m³ from the previous month.

Elsewhere, total export to West Asia grew by 28% to 18,339 m³ from 14,300 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Despite the UAE being the main buyer, export to the country decreased by 3% to 4,278 m³ from 4,393 m³, followed by Saudi Arabia with a decrease of 39% to 992 m³. However, export to Iraq increased by 54% to 2,070 m³ compared to 1,346 m³ in the previous month.

Shipments to East Asia improved by 33% to 28,937 m³ from 21,700 m³ in February 2024. China, as the main buyer, increased its purchases by 42% to 21,668 m³ from 15,299 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to Japan grew by 68% to 2,562 m³ from 1,523 m³ last month. Meanwhile,

Taiwan reduced its buying by 19% to 3,432 m³ compared to 4,253 in the previous month.

Meanwhile, buying from ASEAN increased by 41% to 15,933 m³ from 11,295 m³ as registered in the previous month. The Philippines increased its intake significantly by 623% to 2,801 m³ from 387 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Similarly, exports of sawntimber to Thailand and Singapore grew by 17% to 5,991 m³ and by 21% to 6,016 m³ respectively.

Moving to the Africa region, exports to Africa increased by 38% to 1,847 m³ as compared to 1,337 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, demand from South Africa also improved by 40% to 1,427 m³ from 1,023 m³, but intake by Mauritius dropped by 7% to 245 m³ from 264 m³ in the previous month.

Elsewhere, the USA, as a major buyer from North America, increased its intake by 19% to 2,479 m³ from 2,077 m³ in the previous month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, export to Australia grew by 16% to 579 m³ from 499 m³ in the previous month while New Zealand resumed its buying with 21 m³ for the month.

The average FOB price of sawn timber decreased by 3% to RM2,046 per m³ from RM2,116 per m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, the price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands improved by 14% to RM3,682 per m³ from RM3,222 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM3,113 per m³, an increase of 10% from RM2,844 per m³ in the previous month.

On 22 May 2025, the European Commission published the first official list of classifying countries according to their level of risk under Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 against deforestation. According to the ATIBT (Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux), the benchmarking system is intended to help the competent authorities of Member States define and plan their annual compliance checks, namely 1% for low-risk countries, 3% for standard-risk countries, and 9% for high-risk countries, as part of

a risk-based approach. The country benchmarking also allows due diligence obligations to be tailored for European upstream operators, non-SME downstream operators, and non-SME traders.

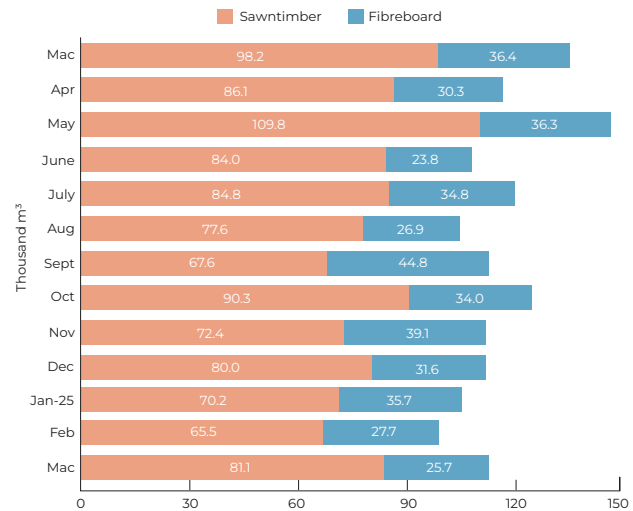
For countries classified as low risk, the operators benefit from a streamlined procedure. They must collect GPS coordinates of plots and data on legality and assess the risks of bypassing or mixing with high-risk or standard products. However, they are exempt from assessing and mitigating risks, except in the event of new information or concerns indicating a real risk. Meanwhile, countries not classified under low risk or high risk are considered standard risk, and in this case, full due diligence applies such as collection of information, risk assessment and mandatory mitigation measures if a non-negligible risk is identified. Countries classified as high risk are considered non-compliant with the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and their products cannot be placed on the European market. These are not so many countries identified solely for their risk of deforestation as countries subject to European or international sanctions, such as Belarus, the Russian Federation, North Korea and Myanmar. For these countries, no risk mitigation is possible: the import ban is absolute.

According to the benchmark, the country list published by the European Commission are as follows:

- 1** Low-risk countries: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Algeria, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- 2** High risk countries: Belarus, North Korea, Myanmar and Russian Federation. Wood products from these countries are banned from being imported into the EU, even if the risk has been mitigated. This ban is based not only on the EUDR but also on a specific European sanctions' regime.
- 3** Standard risk countries: All countries not listed retain the default status of 'standard risk', implying full due diligence. This classification is evolving, based on a

structured dialogue with the Commission. Countries such as Brazil, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia and Malaysia are listed as standard risk countries.

Malaysia: Export of Sawn Timber and MDF



PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in March 2025 recorded an increase of 25% in volume at 106,342 m³ and 27% increase in value to RM213.0 million as compared to the previous month. The cumulative exports for the period of January – March 2025 showed an increase of 4% in volume to 277,859 m³ but 9% decrease in value totalling at RM560.0 million over the previous corresponding period. The EU region recorded a decreasing trend for plywood exports of 53% from 2,963 m³ to 1,392 m³. Germany resumed its purchase with 47 m³ but Poland decreased its purchase by 23% to 416 m³. Meanwhile, the Netherlands didn't make any purchase for the month. In other parts of Europe, exports recorded an increase of 5% to 6,303 m³ from 5,983 m³ in the previous month. The plywood purchases by the UK decreased by 17% to 4,195 m³ but Turkiye increased buying by 133% to 2,109 m³.

“Moving to the East Asia market, volume rose by 70% to 65,685 m³ from 38,587 m³ in February. Japan as the largest importer from the region improved its buying by 83% to 56,215 m³. South Korea and Taiwan also increased their purchases by 0.3% to 3,453 m³ and 31% to 5,260 m³ respectively. In the ASEAN region, import decreased by 12% from 4,579 m³ to 4,025 m³. Plywood export to Thailand and the Philippines decreased by 49% to 1,382 m³ and 38% to 269 m³ each. Meanwhile, Singapore increased the buying by 54% to 1,971 m³.”

In the South Asia region, plywood purchase recorded an improvement by 84% from 137 m³ to 252 m³. Pakistan resumed its import with 78 m³ while Maldives increased buying by 205% to 173 m³. India didn't make any purchase

for the month. The West Asia region recorded a decrease of 11% to 12,124 m³ from 13,665 m³ in the previous month. Import performance from Yemen and Jordan depleted by 21% to 9,195 m³ and 43% to 490 m³ respectively. The UAE resumed its purchase with 775 m³.

In the Africa region, plywood export recorded an increase of 721% from 62 m³ to 509 m³. The North America region showed a decrease of 24% from 17,179 m³ to 12,995 m³. The USA as the main buyer reduced purchase by 22% to 11,998 m³, followed by Mexico with a 42% decrease to 996 m³. Meanwhile, Canada didn't make any purchase for the month. Plywood export in the Oceania/Pacific region recorded an increase of 63% to 3,058 m³ from 1,876 m³. Australia increased its purchases by 58% to 2,911 m³.

The FOB price of plywood for March 2025 is at RM2,003 per m³, an increase of 1% from RM1,976 per m³ from the previous month.

South Africa's construction sector saw a 23% rise in project awards and a 16% increase in value in March 2025, led by major civil projects in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, according to Industry Insight's Construction Monitor. However, tender activity dropped sharply by 42% year-on-year, with project cancellations surging particularly in the education sector. The country's economy is showing mixed signal – retail sales up and inflation is stable, but manufacturing, mining and overall growth remain weak. Political uncertainty, a R16 billion trade deficit (mainly with China) and growing tensions within the Government of National Unity (GNU) have added to investor unease. Domestically, provinces have launched major infrastructure projects, particularly in the Western Cape and Gauteng, although delivery failures and governance issues persist.

VENEER

Export of veneer in March 2025 decreased in volume by 31% to 2,653 m³ but increased in value by 7% worth RM5.5 million as compared to the previous month. The cumulative exports for January – March 2025 showed a decrease in both volume and value by 15% to 8,188 m³ and 36% to RM14.6 million over the previous corresponding period.

“ASEAN recorded an improvement in veneer import by 50% from 233 m³ to 350 m³ with purchase being from Singapore. In East Asia, export decreased by 57% from 3,174 m³ to 1,356 m³. Japan added up its veneer import by 178% to 477 m³ while China reduced buying by 57% to 685 m³ respectively. South Korea didn't make any purchase for the month. In contrast, the South Asia region recorded an increase in import of 99% to 294 m³ from 148 m³ in the previous month. Veneer purchases by India increased by 181% to 227 m³ while Bangladesh reduced its buying by 1% to 67 m³. ”

Moving to North America, veneer import recorded an increase of 29% to 375 m³ from 290 m³ with the purchase from the USA. Meanwhile in the Oceania/Pacific region,

Australia resumed its buying with 276 m³. The African region resumed with new purchase of 3 m³ being from South Africa.

The average FOB price for veneer increased by 55% from RM1,335 per m³ to RM2,073 per m³ as compared to the previous month.

The newly published Wood Volumes Analysis Report suggests that Australia has a reliable supply of forest and timber products to meet future demand, especially for construction. The report forecasts a 50% increase in demand for construction-related timber by 2050, driven by population growth, with the specific demand varying depending on housing preferences. Australia's plantation managers are actively working to maintain and optimise timber supply, collaborating with mills to boost both output and product variety. Despite potential short-term supply pressures, international markets will continue to play a crucial role in meeting demand. The global trade in forest and timber products is expected to remain stable, bolstered by advancements in technology and innovation.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in March 2025 recorded a 7% decrease in volume at 25,719 m³ and 5% in value to RM51.0 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, the cumulative export for the period of January – March 2025 recorded a decrease in volume by 18% to 89,157 m³ and also in value by 19% totalling at RM165.0 million as compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

Export to ASEAN increased by 19% from 3,600 m³ to 4,297 m³ in the previous month. Indonesia and Viet Nam increased their imports by 29% and 98% to 979 m³ and 1,202 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, the Philippines reduced imports by 5% to 1,745 m³.

“Elsewhere, East Asia's purchases of MDF decreased by 0.3% from 11,995 m³ to 11,959 m³ in the previous month. Import of MDF by Taiwan and South Korea recorded an increase by 26% and 17% to 600 m³ and 525 m³ each. Meanwhile, Japan reduced buying by 2% to 10,833 m³. Moving to the South Asia market, export also dropped by 50% from 3,356 m³ to 1,688 m³. Export performance to Pakistan depleted by 56% to 1,339 m³ while India increased its volume by 111% to 195 m³. ”

Export to the West Asia region recorded a decrease of 19% from 4,807 m³ to 3,878 m³ compared to the previous month. The UAE reduced orders by 17% to 3,242 m³ while Saudi Arabia didn't make any purchase for the month. In Europe, the UK reduced its purchase by 5% to 20 m³. On the other hand, countries in the EU, Central America and South America didn't make any purchase for the month.

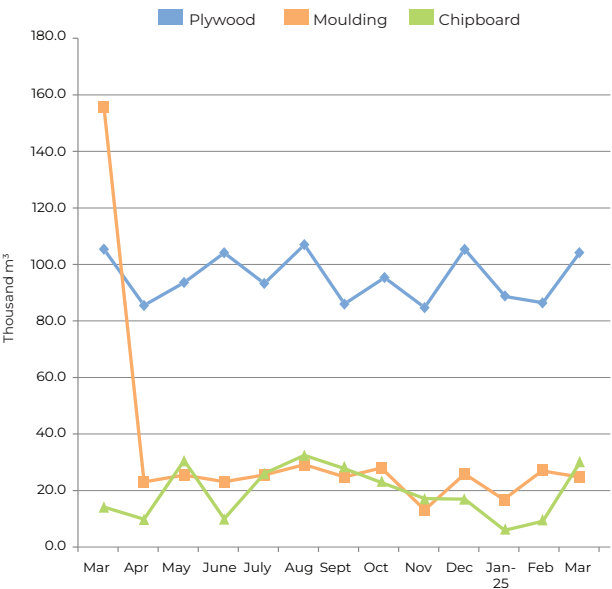
Export to the Oceania/Pacific region recorded an increase of 46% to 1,746 m³ from 1,195 m³. Australia and New Zealand increased purchases by 48% to 1,703 m³ and 5% to 22 m³ respectively. MDF import by North America showed a

decrease of 22% from 2,580 m³ to 2,011 m³ compared to the previous month. MDF purchase by the USA and Canada dropped by 36% to 1,172 m³ and 27% to 405 m³ each. Mexico increased its buying by 114% to 434 m³. In the Africa region, MDF purchase also recorded a decrease of 27% to 120 m³. Import by South Africa depleted by 89% to 12 m³ while Mauritius didn't make any purchase for the month.

The average FOB price of MDF increased by 3% to RM1,971 per m³ from RM1,918 per m³ in the previous month.

Generating tens of billions of dollars in export revenue, Viet Nam's timber industry is now bracing for a tariff storm, as the USA is set to impose a 46% reciprocal tariff on Vietnamese goods. The USA remained Viet Nam's largest export market for timber and timber products, making up 53.1% of total exports. Japan and China followed, accounting for 13.2% and 10.6% respectively. Despite this robust performance, the timber sector continues to grapple with considerable challenges. A large proportion of Viet Nam's timber businesses are small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), many of them family-run operations. These firms are particularly vulnerable to market fluctuations and often struggle with the modernisation of production and processing technologies. Viet Nam lacks a stable domestic supply of large-diameter timber, forcing companies to rely heavily on imports. This dependency not only inflates production costs but also diminishes the competitiveness of Vietnamese timber products in global markets.

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



MOULDINGS

In March 2025, exports of mouldings declined slightly by 3.1% in volume to 21,599 m³ but increased by 3% in value to RM73.1 million compared to February 2025. Cumulatively, for the period of January to March 2025, exports fell significantly by 68% in volume to 63,619 m³ and dropped by 9% in value to RM215.8 million, compared to 198,160 m³ valued at RM235.7 million as recorded in the same period of 2024.

In the ASEAN region, exports of mouldings increased by 10.8% to 823 m³ in March 2025 compared to 743 m³ in February 2025. This growth was supported by resumed demand from Viet Nam, which was recorded at 230 m³ after registering no export in February. Conversely, exports to Singapore declined by 31% to 511 m³ from 739 m³ in the previous month.

In the East Asia region, exports of mouldings increased by 10% to 1,402 m³ in March 2025 compared to 1,275 m³ in February 2025. The increase was driven by higher demand from the Republic of Korea, which rose by 22% to 552 m³. Additionally, Hong Kong resumed imports with 140 m³ in March after recording no export in the previous month. However, exports to Japan declined by 11% to 655 m³ from 733 m³.

In the South Asia region, export volume rose sharply by 78% to 294 m³ in March 2025. This increase was mainly attributed to renewed demand from Maldives and Sri Lanka, which imported 144 m³ and 134 m³ respectively, after registering no exports in February. In contrast, exports to India fell by 90% to 16 m³ from 165 m³ previously. No export activity was recorded in the West Asia region in March 2025, with exports to the United Arab Emirates remaining at zero for the second consecutive month.

In the European Union, exports of mouldings declined by 10% to 4,234 m³ in March 2025 from 4,688 m³ in February. The decrease was largely attributed to lower shipments to the Netherlands, which fell by 18% to 2,542 m³, and France, which registered a marginal drop of 4% to 580 m³. In contrast, exports to Belgium rose by 11%, increasing to 580 m³ from 523 m³ in the previous month.

“In other parts of Europe, exports dropped by 15% to 373 m³ in March 2025 compared to 440 m³ in February. This was mainly due to reduced exports to the United Kingdom, which saw a decline of 7% to 373 m³ from 400 m³ in the preceding month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, exports of mouldings increased by 11% to 1,160 m³ in March 2025 compared to 1,050 m³ in February. The rise was mainly due to higher exports to Australia, which grew by 13% to 1,160 m³ in March 2025.”

Exports to North America fell slightly by 5% to 12,779 m³ in March 2025 from 13,399 m³ in the previous month. Shipments to the United States, the dominant market in the region, recorded a marginal decline of 1% to 12,598 m³. However, exports to Canada rose by 218%, from 57 m³ in February to 182 m³ in March.

In Africa, exports of mouldings remained largely unchanged, registering a marginal increase of 1% to 534 m³ in March 2025. While shipments to Mauritius declined by 38% to 280 m³, exports to South Africa more than doubled, rising by 110% to 174 m³ respectively.

The average FOB unit value for mouldings increased by 6%, rising from RM3,193 per m³ in February 2025 to RM3,384 per m³ in March 2025.

According to the Report from Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka's construction sector continued its upward trajectory, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for Construction rising to 55.6, indicating a sustained expansion in construction activities. This growth builds upon the momentum observed in previous months, reflecting a positive trend in the industry. Survey respondents attributed this expansion to ongoing projects and favourable business conditions. However, they emphasised the necessity for more large-scale projects to maintain and bolster this positive trend.

Despite the consistent growth, stakeholders' express concerns about the sector's long-term sustainability without the infusion of significant new projects. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka's report underscores the importance of initiating substantial infrastructure developments to ensure the continued growth and stability of the construction sector.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

In March 2025, exports of Builders Joinery and Carpentry (BJC) products increased by 14% in volume to 12.6 million kg, while the export value rose by 7% to RM111.8 million compared to February 2025. Cumulatively, for the period of January to March 2025, BJC exports expanded by 10% in volume to 36.3 million kg and grew by 8% in value to RM343.4 million, compared to 32.9 million kg valued at RM317.2 million during the same period in 2024.

In the ASEAN region, BJC exports declined significantly by 69% to RM21.9 million in March 2025, down from RM71.6 million in February. The decline was largely driven by lower shipments to Singapore, which dropped by 35% to RM12.9 million, and Viet Nam, which fell by 56% to RM2.3 million. In contrast, exports to Thailand recorded a modest increase of 8% to RM4.2 million.

In East Asia, total export fell by 31% to RM18.7 million in March 2025 compared to RM27.1 million in the previous month. This decline was led by a 31% drop in shipments to Japan (RM14.3 million), followed by decreases to China by 49% (RM1.7 million) and Taiwan by 29% (RM1.4 million).

Exports to South Asia declined by 57%, reaching RM5.4 million in March 2025. The drop was attributed to lower exports to India, which decreased by 43% to RM4.3 million, and to the Maldives where there was a 40% decline to RM780,808. Bangladesh also registered a sharp fall in demand, with exports dropping by 75% to RM114,747. However, BJC's exports to the West Asia region recorded a remarkable increase of 1,002%, rising to RM10.0 million from just RM904,905 a year earlier. Saudi Arabia was the key driver of this growth, with BJC shipments surging an extraordinary 12,203% to RM9.59 million. Kuwait also showed strong growth of 599%, reaching RM49,593. However, BJC exports to the UAE declined significantly by 68% to RM260,420.

In the European Union, BJC achieved healthy growth with exports increasing by 8% to RM70.5 million. Belgium led the gains with a 60% rise to RM29.0 million while France recorded a solid increase of 12% to RM5.0 million. Conversely, exports to the Netherlands fell nearly 20% to RM19.4 million.

Elsewhere in Europe, BJC exports declined by 4.3% to RM36.5 million. Exports to the United Kingdom dropped by 4% to RM34.9 million, while Norway showed a slight increase of 1% to RM1.15 million. Exports to Turkey, however, saw a sharp decrease of 42%, falling to RM405,311.

Exports to the Oceania/Pacific region declined by 6% to RM57.8 million compared to RM61.5 million a year earlier. Australia, the largest market in the region, saw exports fall by 7% to RM52.2 million from RM56.0 million previously. In contrast, exports to New Zealand recorded a modest increase of 3%, rising to RM4.7 million. However, shipments to Tonga dropped sharply by 42%, falling to RM84,679 for the month.

Exports to the North America region increased significantly by 53%, reaching RM120.2 million compared to RM78.7 million in the previous year. The United States remained the dominant market, with exports rising by 54% to RM118.8 million. In contrast, exports to Canada declined by 9% to RM1.17 million. There were no exports recorded to South America during the period.

Exports to Africa grew by 15% to RM2.4 million. Mauritius led the growth with a substantial increase of 321%, reaching RM466,328. Morocco registered imports of RM281,294, having recorded none in the previous year. Conversely, exports to South Africa decreased by 25% to RM1.13 million.

“According to the Saudi Arabia Construction Report dated in 6 March 2025, the Kingdom’s construction industry experienced a 4.6% real-term growth in 2024, driven by substantial investments in housing, energy, and infrastructure projects. This expansion aligns with the government’s Vision 2030 initiative and its ambition to host the FIFA World Cup in 2034. Notably, the total value of construction contracts awarded surged by 47% year-on-year in the first half of 2024, reaching SAR 185 billion (USD 49.3 billion). Major developments, such as the USD 50 billion Mukaab project, are expected to contribute significantly to the non-oil GDP and create many job opportunities.”

Accordingly, this construction boom has led to a heightened demand for building materials, including timber. In line with the data stated above, the Kingdom's shift towards sustainable building practices, as part of its Vision 2030 goals, has increased the adoption of timber in construction projects. This trend not only supports environmental objectives but also stimulates growth in the timber industry, highlighting the interconnection between the expanding construction sector and the rising demand for wood products.

FURNITURE

Total export of wooden furniture in March 2025 grew by 7% to RM763.4 million from RM715.9 million, whereas cumulative exports in the period of January - March 2025 also reduced by 1% at a total value of RM2.4 billion as compared to the previous corresponding year in 2024.

Shipments of wooden furniture to ASEAN were valued at RM277.5 million, a decrease of 4% from RM288.8 million. Singapore as the main buyer increased its buying by 8%, valued at RM187.1 million as compared to the previous year. Despite that, there have been a cutback on exports to both the Philippines and Thailand at 15% and 7%, valued at RM48.4 million and RM17.7 million respectively.

As for the East Asia region, exports decreased by 13% from RM150.7 million to RM131.1 million. Japan, despite being the main buyer from this region dropped its buying by 10% to RM109.0 million from RM120.6 million over the same corresponding period. Similarly, exports to Taiwan and South Korea also declined by 3% worth RM11.0 million and by 46% to RM5.3 million respectively.

Exports to South Asia totalled at RM36.0 million, a decrease of 5% from RM37.9 million in the corresponding period in 2024. Both India and Maldives decreased imports by 2% amounted to RM33.2 million and by 49% worth RM1.9 million respectively. However, Bangladesh increased its purchases significantly from RM3,602 to RM0.3 million in the period of January - March 2025. Meanwhile, Kazakhstan improved its buying by 8% valued at RM0.6 million for the stated period.

As for the West Asia region, total export of wooden furniture increased by 4%, totaling at RM125.1 million as compared to the amount of RM120.4 million from the previous year. The main buyer of this product was the UAE, with a total purchase of RM54.1 million, decreased by 9% from RM59.4 million in the previous corresponding year. Both Saudia Arabia and Oman increases their imports of wooden furniture by 26% which amounted to RM47.8 million and by 30% with a total value of RM7.2 million, respectively.

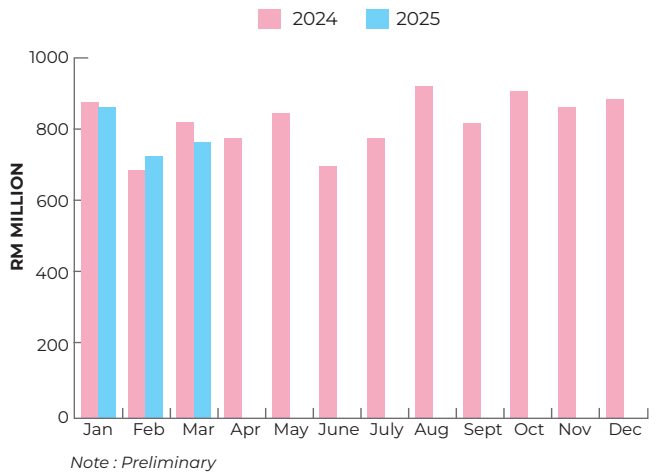
Total export of wooden furniture to the European Union region declined by 23%, totalling up from RM77.5 million to RM100.2 million. Intake from Belgium decreased by 15% worth RM11.1 million and followed by France with exports down by 17% worth RM9.1 million. Similarly, export to Poland fell by 23% to RM7.5 million from RM9.7 million over the same period. Meanwhile, imports by other countries in Europe declined by 4% with a total amount of RM123.9 million. United Kingdom increased its intake by 1% worth RM118.3 million while purchases from Georgia and Türkiye decreased by 3% and 79% to RM3.3 million and RM0.9 million, respectively.

Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific region decreased by 16% to RM121.1 million in the period of January – March 2025. Australia as the main buyer decreased purchases by 12% with a total value of RM110.0 million from RM125.4 million in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, both New Zealand and Papua New Guinea dropped their intake by 25% and 63%, totalled at RM7.8 million and RM1.4 million, respectively.

Shipment to North America increased by 6%, amounting to RM1.4 billion from RM1.3 billion in the previous year. The USA as the main buyer in this region increased its purchases by

6% with a total value of RM1.3 billion from RM1.2 billion in the same corresponding period. Meanwhile, exports to both Canada and Puerto Rico increased by 7% to RM98.3 million and by 48% to RM17.6 million respectively.

Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture



In the Central America region, export decreased by 6% amounting to RM10.2 million for the stated period. Panama, as the largest buyer in the region increased its intake by 19% worth RM3.9 million. Similarly, exports to El Salvador and Guatemala grew by 39% to RM2.6 million and by 15% to RM2.5 million, respectively. Moving to South American countries, export decreased by 31% to RM20.1 million with Chile and Venezuela decreasing their purchases by 36% to RM11.4 million and by 31% to RM1.0 million, respectively. Similarly, Peru also reduced its buying by 25% worth RM3.8 million.

Shipments to Africa on the other hand, decreased by 14% to RM30.6 million in the period of January – March 2025. There was a decrease on exportations of wooden furniture to South Africa at 13% from RM9.8 million to RM8.5 million. Similarly, Libya dropped its purchase by 14% to RM1.2 million. Export to Tanzania also decreased by 10% to RM2.1 million from RM2.3 million in the same corresponding period.

“ In March 2025, total export of rattan furniture from Malaysia recorded an increase of 22% in value to RM5.5 million, while cumulative exports for the period of January - March 2025, increased by 9% in value to RM16.4 million from RM15.1 million in the previous corresponding year.”

Export of rattan furniture to the ASEAN region recorded a decrease of 27% worth RM1.5 million from RM2.1 million in the previous year. Singapore as the main importer in this region decreased its import by 53% valued at RM0.3 million as compared to the year before. Meanwhile, exports to Thailand and Indonesia had an improvement of 129% and 815% with both countries recording an export value of RM0.2 million for each country.

Export to the East Asia region increased by 66% worth RM0.7 million with Japan as the largest buyer. Shipments to Japan was worth RM0.4 million with an increase of 167%. Similarly, export to Hong Kong increased significantly by 4,949% worth RM87,607. Export to China decreased by 70% worth RM69,816. India was the only country Malaysia exported its rattan furniture to in the South Asia region. Total export increased by 93% at RM0.3 million as compared to the previous year.

As for the West Asia region, total export was valued at RM0.7 million, an increase of 8% from the previous corresponding year. The UAE was the main buyer from this region improving its intake by 8% totalling at RM0.4 million. Meanwhile, export to Qatar increased by 50% to RM23,394 while Iran resumed its intake with purchases worth RM0.2 million.

Export to the European Union region increased by 33%, valued at RM3.3 million as compared to the previous year which was at RM2.5 million. Poland resumed its intake with RM0.5 million while exports to France and the Netherlands increased by 16% to RM0.6 million and by 92% to RM0.3 million respectively. Meanwhile, in other parts of Europe, export to the United Kingdom decreased by 50% to RM1.1 million while Switzerland resumed its intake with RM860. However, Russia increased its buying by 7% valued at RM49,179 from RM45,824 in the same corresponding period in 2024.

Exports to the Oceania/Pacific region has a total value of RM0.7 million, a decrease of 12% from the previous corresponding year, with exports to Australia, the main buyer of the product in this region, increased by 8%, valued at RM0.6 million. Shipments to the North America region increased by 29% to RM7.5 million from RM5.9 million, with the USA as the main purchaser with a total export increase of 55%, valued at RM6.9 million from RM4.4 million in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, Canada increased its purchases by 1% worth RM0.5 million. However, the Dominican Republic reduced its intake by 97% worth RM12,874 for the period of January – March 2025 while export to Chile resumed with RM0.4 million for the stated period.

On 30 May 2025, a federal appeals court temporarily reinstated US President Donald Trump's tariffs a day after a trade court ruled that it exceeded the authorities granted to the president. The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington temporarily blocked the lower court's decision, but provided no reasoning for the decision, only giving the plaintiffs until 5 June to respond. On 29 May 2025, the Court of International Trade ruled that the emergency law invoked by Trump did not give the president unilateral authority to impose tariffs on nearly every country in the world. The New York-based court said the US Constitution gave Congress exclusive power to

regulate commerce with other nations, and that this was not superseded by the president's remit to safeguard the economy. Several small businesses and a group of states have challenged the tariffs that have shaken up the world economic order.

The ruling was based on two separate cases. The nonpartisan Liberty Justice Center brought one case on behalf of several small businesses that import goods from countries that were targeted by the duties, while a coalition of US state governments also challenged the import taxes. The two cases marked the first major legal challenges to Trump's so-called "Liberation Day" tariffs and they appeared before the Court of International Trade, a part of the federal court system with authority specifically over trade. A three-judge panel ruled that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), a 1977 law that Trump cited to justify the tariffs, did not give him the power to impose the sweeping import taxes. The court also blocked a separate set of levies the Trump administration imposed on China, Mexico and Canada, in response to what the administration said was the unacceptable flow of drugs and illegal immigrants into the USA. However, the court was not asked to address tariffs imposed on specific goods like cars, steel and aluminium, which fall under a different law.

Depending on what happens, the case could eventually go to the Supreme Court - the highest court in the US - but even if President Trump lost there, it would not necessarily spell the end of his tariff plans. For one thing, the ruling noted that the president does have the power to impose tariffs of up to 15% for 150 days to address concerns about the balance of trade, which the White House had argued were an emergency. If the administration chooses to go that route, those new tariffs could go into effect within days, according to analysts at Goldman Sachs. President Trump could also turn to the other, more established laws that he used in his first term to justify tariffs, which focus on issues such as national security and unfair trade policies. Those require investigations and periods of public comment before tariffs go into effect. Goldman Sachs said President Trump might also turn to an untested part of a 1930 trade law that allows the president to impose tariffs of up to 50% on imports from countries that "discriminate" against the US.

MTIB

The advertisement features a photograph of a young boy in a light green shirt and shorts, sitting on a wooden rocking chair in a rustic wooden house. He is smiling and pointing towards a window that looks out onto a lush green landscape. The house has wooden walls and floors, with a small table and potted plants nearby. The image is framed by a stylized orange and yellow archway. To the right of the photo, there are two logos: the Malaysian coat of arms (KEMENTERIAN PERLADANGAN DAN KOMODITI) and the MTIB logo (LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN KAYU MALAYSIA). Below these logos, the text 'KAYU MALAYSIA' is written in large, bold, white letters, with 'Standing on Excellence' in smaller white text underneath. At the bottom, the slogan 'For a viable nature...' is written in white. The background of the right side of the ad is a dark green with a subtle wood grain pattern.

TIMBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THAILAND



Country Overview

THAILAND, officially known as the Kingdom of Thailand, is a strategically positioned country in Southeast Asia, encompassing an area of 513,120 square kilometres and home to a population of approximately 70 million people. It shares land borders with Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia, while also enjoying maritime boundaries with Vietnam, Indonesia, and India. With Bangkok as its capital and principal economic hub, Thailand serves as a key gateway for trade and logistics within the ASEAN region. The country boasts well-established infrastructure and connectivity, making it a regional centre for commerce, manufacturing, and distribution. While Thai is the official language, English is widely used in business and trade contexts.

“Thailand is endowed with a rich base of natural resources, including rubber, tin, natural gas, and timber, which support various primary and secondary industries. The agriculture and forestry sectors play a vital role in rural development and employment, especially outside urban centres. In recognition of environmental and sustainability concerns, Thailand has made considerable efforts to reform its forest management practices over the past few decades.”

Forest Resources

Historically, forests have been vital to Thailand’s economy, particularly the timber sector. However, unsustainable logging and significant deforestation led to a national logging ban in natural forests in 1989, marking a crucial shift toward plantation-based timber production. Today, forest cover in Thailand remains stable at about 31 to 32 percent of total land area over 16 million hectares with diverse ecosystems, including tropical evergreen, deciduous, and mangrove forests.

To support domestic demand and sustain the timber industry, Thailand has established more than 4.28 million hectares of forest plantations, primarily featuring fast-growing species like rubberwood, eucalyptus, acacia, and teak. Rubberwood, in particular, plays an important role in the timber-based panel industries. An additional 1.04 million hectares are allocated for mixed-use. Oversight of forest resources is managed by relevant agencies including the Royal Forest Department (RFD), the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), and the Forest Industry Organization (FIO), which manages commercial plantations on reserved lands.

Thailand actively participates in global efforts to ensure sustainable forest management and legal timber trade. As a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the country has taken steps to strengthen timber legality assurance and supply chain transparency. These initiatives, along with the shift to regulated plantation-based forestry, have helped position Thailand as a credible and competitive player in both regional and international timber markets.

Timber Production Thailand

According to FAO statistics from 2023, Thailand remains one of the region’s leading producers of timber and timber-based products, with consistently high output across several major categories. Log production remained stable at 6.2 million cubic metres annually from 2019 to 2023, reflecting sustained harvesting activity, particularly from rubberwood plantations. Sawntimber production, one of the country’s key outputs, was relatively steady between 2019 and 2022 before increasing significantly to 5.0 million cubic metres in 2023.

Panel products also play a vital role in Thailand’s timber industry. Fibreboard production rose from 4.04 million cubic metres in 2019 to 4.5 million cubic metres in 2023, while particle board output grew sharply from 3.33 million cubic metres in 2019 to 4.89 million cubic metres in 2023, making it one of the fastest-growing segments. These products are essential for downstream applications in furniture and interior manufacturing, supporting both domestic consumption and export demand.

Other timber products such as veneer and plywood remained stable throughout the period, with annual production of 300,000 cubic metres for veneer since 2021 and 120,000 cubic metres for plywood across all five years. Meanwhile, wood charcoal production saw gradual growth from 1.52 million tonnes in 2019 to 1.59 million tonnes in 2023, while wood chips and particles declined significantly, dropping from 2.49 million cubic metres in 2019 to approximately 1.74 million cubic metres from 2020 onwards. This shift suggests a changing focus in Thailand’s timber utilisation strategy, potentially favouring higher-value processing over raw material exports.

Thailand: Production Quantity 2019-2023

Value: RM

Products	Unit	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Logs	m³	6,200,000	6,200,000	6,200,000	6,200,000	6,200,000
Sawn timber	m³	4,500,000	4,300,000	4,300,000	4,200,000	5,000,000
Particle Board	m³	3,334,000	3,334,000	4,576,000	4,300,000	4,890,000
Fibreboard	m³	4,039,000	3,746,000	4,460,000	4,460,000	4,500,000
Wood chips and particles	m³	2,492,555	1,735,970	1,735,970	1,735,970	1,735,970
Wood charcoal	T	1,517,655	1,535,384	1,553,588	1,572,009	1,590,647
Veneer	m³	185,000	185,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Plywood	m³	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000

Source : FAO STATS





Timber Trade Of Malaysia With Thailand

Between 2022 and 2024, Malaysia's total timber and timber product exports to Thailand showed a declining trend, falling from RM387.0 million in 2022 to RM319.3 million in 2023, and further to RM268.7 million in 2024, mainly due to reduced demand for key products like sawntimber and wooden furniture. In 2024, sawntimber remained the top export at RM121.7 million (down 25.7%), followed by wooden furniture at RM68.8 million (down 21.3%). Plywood exports increased slightly to RM38.9 million, while Builders Joinery & Carpentry (BJC) products rebounded to RM15.8 million. Export of fibreboard and chipboard/particleboard also grew moderately, reaching RM3.7 million and RM3.0 million, respectively.

Malaysia: Export of Timber & Timber Products to Thailand, 2020-2024

Value: RM

Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sawn timber	257,861,642	209,083,753	231,939,660	163,833,444	121,740,152
Wooden Furniture	44,176,680	47,397,550	85,910,009	87,461,905	68,781,044
Plywood	57,457,110	34,839,399	31,757,760	36,832,021	38,871,182
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	21,727,423	16,327,310	12,407,898	9,596,231	15,803,528
Fibreboard	5,564,525	6,005,099	4,217,717	3,240,124	3,670,927
Chipboard/Particleboard	8,908,554	5,629,322	7,115,736	2,749,003	3,031,775
Mouldings	1,847,469	1,729,755	799,282	736,097	712,237
Logs	98,789	116,037	140,360	50,069	130,048
Other Products	10,722,073	10,071,030	12,715,353	14,819,880	13,183,745
Total	408,364,265	331,199,255	387,003,775	319,318,774	265,924,638

Source: MTIB & DOSM

In 2024, Malaysia's import of timber and timber products from Thailand rose sharply to RM824.2 million, a 34% increase from RM613.7 million in 2023, driven by higher demand for processed timber and panels products in sectors like construction and furniture manufacturing. Chipboard and particleboard remained the top import category at RM491.7 million, followed by fibreboard at RM188.9 million, both showing strong year-on-year growth. Imports of sawn timber and BJC products also increased to RM74.7 million and RM27.6 million, respectively. Other product segments such as veneer, plywood, and mouldings recorded moderate gains, while wooden furniture imports declined significantly to RM14.1 million.

Malaysia: Import of Timber & Timber Products from Thailand, 2020-2024

Value: RM

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Chipboard/Particleboard	308,380,261	439,847,294	311,469,180	338,386,142	491,731,828
Fibreboard	149,375,361	108,662,935	85,243,391	141,641,017	188,904,894
Sawn timber	30,536,267	50,224,094	56,480,839	61,013,009	74,681,885
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	5,962,987	5,040,444	7,482,892	13,142,653	27,613,561
Wooden Furniture	22,514,428	26,225,227	26,987,520	36,949,921	14,139,869
Mouldings	9,693,265	11,293,405	12,092,937	7,352,410	8,557,710
Veneer	33,610	0	132,364	1,983,558	6,044,232
Plywood	5,171,731	5,655,512	3,504,601	2,725,089	5,343,847
Logs	0	0	0	0	239,618
Others	5,735,587	11,055,232	17,204,130	10,525,186	6,907,846
Total	537,403,497	658,004,143	520,597,854	613,718,985	824,165,290

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Thailand's export of timber and timber products demonstrated a consistent upward trend from 2020 to 2024. Total exports increased from USD2.91 billion in 2020 to USD4.13 billion in 2024, marking a 42.2% overall growth. Sawntimber remained the top export item throughout the period, with its export value rising from USD927.4 million in 2020 to USD1.33 billion in 2024. Fibreboard was among the leading export products, with its value increasing from USD613.1 million in 2020 to USD849.9 million in 2024. The product recorded relatively stable performance from 2021 to 2024, remaining above USD843 million annually. Wooden furniture also contributed at USD740.9 million in 2021 before dipping in 2023 and rebounding to USD693.4 million in 2024.



Particleboard or chipboard exports also showed positive growth, rising from USD328.6 million in 2020 to USD466.0 million in 2024, with the highest export value recorded in 2021 at nearly USD497 million. Plywood exports nearly doubled, from USD54.3 million in 2020 to USD100.5 million in 2024. BJC products recorded a steady increase, growing by more than 55% from USD39.7 million in 2020 to USD61.8 million in 2024. Veneer sheets posted the most impressive growth, rising from just USD6.4 million in 2020 to USD42.4 million in 2024. Exports of smaller product categories such as wooden frames, mouldings, and logs remained relatively modest, with some fluctuations over the years. The “Others” category, which includes items such as timber wool, hoopwood, metallised timber, and railway sleepers, has consistently contributed significantly, exceeding USD500 million annually since 2022 and reaching USD558.1 million in 2024. This indicates strong diversification in Thailand's timber product exports and its responsiveness to global market demands.

Thailand Timber Trade: Export of Timber and Timber Product to the World, 2020-2024

USD '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sawntimber	927,391	1,059,729	999,629	1,250,237	1,333,771
Fibreboard	613,055	850,239	843,375	849,081	849,924
Wooden Furniture	641,193	740,924	716,492	550,975	693,400
Particleboard/Chipboard	328,636	496,885	389,479	419,086	465,956
Plywood	54,331	91,919	92,684	79,860	100,527
BJC	39,701	44,552	38,838	50,822	61,830
Veneer Sheets	6,367	10,148	14,369	26,959	42,443
Wooden Frames	12,882	11,358	11,674	10,809	13,312
Mouldings	8,422	8,061	9,290	8,112	6,456
Logs	6,682	10,425	3,323	6,430	6,152
Others	266,565	355,411	559,628	600,737	558,103
Total	2,905,225	3,679,651	3,678,781	3,853,108	4,131,874

Source: ITC Stats

Thailand's exports of timber and timber products under HS Code 44 experienced steady growth from 2020 to 2024, with total export value rising from USD2.26 billion in 2020 to USD3.44 billion in 2024. China remained the main export destination throughout the period, accounting for more than 40% of Thailand's total export in this product group. Export value to China increased from USD1.06 billion in 2020 to USD1.49 billion in 2024, reflecting strong demand from the Chinese market.

Aside from China, Thailand also saw notable increases in exports to other markets. The United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Korea, and Saudi Arabia ranked consistently among the top five destinations, with steady growth observed across the five-year period. The Republic of Korea, in particular, recorded a 60% increase in imports from Thailand between 2020 and 2024, reaching USD 227.5 million in 2024.

Thailand's exports to Malaysia fluctuated during the period. After peaking at USD141.1 million in 2021, the value dropped to USD102.5 million in 2022, before rebounding to USD167.3 million in 2024, placing Malaysia as the seventh-largest destination. Other major markets included the United States, Japan, Viet Nam, and India, all showing a general upward trend.

Thailand: Export of Timber and Timber Products (HS code 44) by Countries, 2020-2024

USD '000

Rank	Exporters	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	World	2,264,030	2,938,728	2,962,290	3,302,133	3,438,476
1	China	1,057,611	1,214,744	1,189,596	1,437,263	1,485,996
2	United Arab Emirates	125,796	210,530	224,911	231,037	261,397
3	Korea, Republic of	141,999	240,884	200,729	205,485	227,542
4	Saudi Arabia	139,170	167,298	190,349	176,753	198,108
5	United States of America	107,191	163,197	170,433	155,645	189,715
6	Japan	97,341	107,899	161,142	194,161	187,230
7	Malaysia	113,409	141,114	102,485	116,920	167,333
8	Viet Nam	122,718	125,584	119,801	123,831	149,514
9	Lao People's Democratic Republic	41,220	70,919	88,821	92,816	82,851
10	India	35,047	27,054	40,239	77,100	74,092
	Others	282,526	469,503	473,783	491,122	414,701

Source: ITC Stats



Thailand's import of timber and timber products from the world showed a generally upward trend between 2020 and 2024, with total imports increasing from USD890.1 million in 2020 to USD1.17 billion in 2024. The growth was driven primarily by rising domestic demand in the construction, interior, and furniture manufacturing sectors. In the form of mass timber and other engineered wood products. The top three imported products in 2024 were wooden furniture, plywood, and sawntimber, valued at USD598.9 million, USD238.2 million, and USD143.8 million respectively. Wooden furniture consistently led all product categories, reflecting Thailand's reliance on imports to meet growing consumer and hospitality sector demand.

According to a 2023 report by the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI), the country's tourism recovery and increasing real estate development have significantly boosted demand for interior furnishings and decor. Plywood imports remained strong to support packaging, formwork, and interior construction needs, which aligns with continued investment in infrastructure projects. Meanwhile, sawntimber imports, although slightly lower than earlier peaks, continue to be essential for general carpentry and renovation work, particularly in urban areas, as noted by the Department of Industrial Works and the Thai Timber Association.

Thailand: Import of Timber and Timber Products from World

USD '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden Furniture	388,186	478,609	492,767	523,893	598,933
Plywood	197,962	262,345	268,174	222,625	238,217
Sawntimber	168,452	180,271	202,768	139,993	143,810
Veneer Sheets	23,385	25,169	27,765	34,144	49,918
BJC	28,457	20,173	19,403	19,082	21,120
Logs	4,603	4,325	3,621	4,506	6,344
Mouldings	2,583	3,920	4,134	3,352	2,843
Wooden Frames	845	731	1,305	1,874	1,730
Other Products	75,651	86,016	97,109	102,326	104,621
Total	890,124	1,061,559	1,117,046	1,051,795	1,167,536

Source: ITC Stats

Over the years, Malaysia has remained one of the top exporters of timber and timber products to Thailand. In 2020, Malaysia's exports to Thailand stood at USD86.1 million, making it the third-largest supplier after China and Vietnam. However, the export value has shown a declining trend since then. In 2021, exports dropped 26% to USD64.0 million, followed by a further 8% decrease in 2022 to USD59.1 million. The downward trend continued in 2023, with exports falling by 26% to USD 43.7 million. In 2024, the export value declined further by 13.4% to USD37.9 million. However, despite the consistent drop in export value over the five-year period, Malaysia has maintained its position as the third-largest supplier of timber and timber products to Thailand.

Thailand: Import of Timber & Timber Products (HS Code 44) by Countries from World, 2020-2024

USD '000

Rank	Exporters	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	World	501,940	582,952	624,279	527,901	568,601
1	China	176,912	250,971	259,965	237,660	273,124
2	Viet Nam	48,924	60,673	65,086	56,841	70,858
3	Malaysia	86,095	64,045	59,099	43,717	37,858
4	New Zealand	21,443	28,215	29,873	22,574	28,713
5	United States of America	25,159	21,861	27,804	18,251	21,215
6	Indonesia	26,190	24,016	24,850	15,883	16,300
7	Canada	9,146	10,491	9,463	8,538	10,254
8	Myanmar	18,418	14,991	19,333	15,649	9,160
9	Germany	7,444	8,690	8,504	8,218	7,709
10	Lao People's Democratic Republic	7,059	7,038	10,608	10,524	7,506
	Others	75,146	91,958	109,692	90,043	85,901

Source: ITC Stats





Thailand: Import Tariff

Although Malaysia and Thailand are both ASEAN member states and benefit from zero duties under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Thailand maintains Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs for non-FTA partners. For upstream timber products such as logs and sawntimber, the MFN duty ranges from 0-5%, while products like veneer sheets, mouldings, and plywood are subject to MFN rates of 3-5%. Higher MFN duties apply to wooden frames (10%), BJC products (5-10%), and wooden furniture (10-20%) respectively.

Under existing FTAs, including those with ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and under the RCEP, nearly all timber-related products, including plywood, BJC, and wooden furniture, are traded at 0% tariff. As a result, Malaysian timber exports to Thailand enjoy full duty-free access under ATIGA, creating a competitive advantage in the Thai market despite Thailand's otherwise relatively high MFN tariffs for downstream timber products.

HS CODE	PRODUCTS	MFN %	ASEAN Free Trade Area Duty Rates (ASEAN Trade In Goods Agreement)	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For Australia	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For Chile	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For India	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For Japan	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For New Zealand	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For Peru
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
4403	Logs	0							
4407	Sawntimber	0-5	0	0	0		0	0	0
4408	Veneer Sheets	5	0	0	0		0	0	
4409	Mouldings	3	0	0	0		0	0	
4412	Plywood	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4414	Wooden Frames	10	0	0	0		0	0	
4418	Builders' Joinery & Carpentry	5-10	0	0	0		0	0	
9403	Wooden Furniture	10-20	0	0	0	0-10	0	0	0-20

HS CODE	PRODUCTS	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For Australia-New Zealand Under ASEAN	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For China Under ASEAN	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For Hong Kong, China Under ASEAN	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For India Under ASEAN	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For Japan Under ASEAN	Free-Trade Agreement Duty Rate For Korea, Republic Of Under ASEAN	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP)	Thailand-Tariff Preferences For Least Developed Countries (LDC)
(1)	(2)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(18)	(19)
4403	Logs							0	
4407	Sawntimber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4408	Veneer Sheets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4409	Mouldings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4412	Plywood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4414	Wooden Frames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4418	Builders' Joinery & Carpentry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9403	Wooden Furniture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0





Prospect

Thailand's economic growth is projected to be modest in 2025. The World Bank has revised its GDP growth forecast downward to 1.6%, citing factors such as weakened exports, global trade uncertainties, and subdued private investment. This represents a significant decrease from earlier projections of 2.9%. Contributing factors include high household debt levels and sluggish investment recovery. In response, the Thai government plans to implement additional stimulus measures, including a USD4.1 billion cash handout programme aimed at boosting domestic consumption. The Ministry of Finance is targeting a GDP growth rate of 3.5% for 2025, emphasising the need for increased investment and economic stimulus.

Thailand's construction sector is expected to experience a real-term growth of 5.9% in 2025. This growth is supported by government investments in tourism infrastructure, digital projects and export-related development. The 2025 national budget allocates approximately USD 5.7 billion (THB193.3 billion) to the Ministry of Transport, reflecting a 5.5% increase from the previous year. The initiatives include the development of green logistics, modernisation of rail networks, and expansion of airport capacities. These projects form part of Thailand's broader strategy to enhance national infrastructure and stimulate long-term economic growth.

Thailand's timber industry is well-positioned for sustained growth, with strong export performance led by sawntimber and panel products. In 2024, sawntimber exports reached a record USD1.33 billion, maintaining its position as the country's top timber product. This robust performance highlights Thailand's strength in primary processing and its ability to meet growing global demand, especially in markets with expanding construction and housing sectors. Additionally, rising international interest in cost-effective raw and semi-processed timber materials supports the continued growth of this segment.

Panel products, particularly fibreboard and particleboard, also play a central role in Thailand's timber export portfolio. Fibreboard exports remained stable in 2024 at around USD849.9 million, while particleboard exports rose to USD466.0 million, reflecting sustained demand from the furniture, interior, and construction industries. The steady performance of plywood exports, which increased to USD100.5 million in 2024, further strengthens Thailand's reputation as a reliable supplier of these products. These products are expected to benefit from growing preferences for sustainable building materials in key export markets.

Looking ahead, Thailand's timber sector holds promising prospects driven by its integrated supply chain, ample availability of plantation timber such as rubberwood and eucalyptus, and a strong manufacturing base. The government's ongoing investment in logistics and trade facilitation, coupled with rising global emphasis on green construction and eco-certified materials, is likely to further enhance export competitiveness. With the right policy support and continued focus on innovation, Thailand is poised to expand its market share in value-added timber products and consolidate its position as a leading timber exporter in the region.

Malaysia's timber exports to Thailand declined from RM408.4 million in 2020 to RM265.9 million in 2024,

with significant drops in sawntimber and wooden furniture. However, there are still opportunities in Thailand's growing demand for sustainable and design-focused timber products. Malaysian exporters can tap into this by offering green-certified timber, especially rubberwood, and by aligning with Thailand's preference for contemporary and multifunctional designs. Strengthening business-to-business collaboration, enhancing product branding, and improving online visibility through localised digital platforms and partnerships with Thai interior and furniture companies will be key to regaining competitiveness in the market.

International Commitments in Legality and Sustainability

Thailand has developed its own Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) under the framework of the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan to ensure that timber and timber products are harvested and traded in accordance with national laws. The system verifies legal origin through documentation and monitoring across the entire supply chain, particularly for timber sourced from rubberwood plantations and private lands. Since 2013, Thailand has been negotiating a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union. Thailand remains committed to aligning its legal framework and timber governance with international standards. Thailand is also taking steps to prepare for the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which will require exporters to demonstrate that their timber and timber-based products are not only legal but also deforestation-free. This reflects Thailand's broader commitment to sustainable forest management and maintaining access to key markets in the EU.

According to national regulatory frameworks, TLAS draws from various laws such as the Forest Act B.E. 2484 (1941), Forest Plantation Act and laws governing reserved forests and timber transport. In addition, many Thai exporters adopt voluntary third-party certifications such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC certification signals that timber products meet internationally recognised standards for environmental sustainability, legal compliance, and social responsibility. With rubberwood being the country's main legal timber source, and growing international scrutiny on forest governance, Thailand's ongoing reforms and legal frameworks highlight its increasing commitment to sustainable and responsible timber trade.



References

1. GlobalData. (2024). Thailand construction market analysis.
2. GlobeNewswire. (2025, May 6). Thailand construction market report 2025.
3. Nation Thailand. (2024, December 13). World Bank slashes Thailand's 2025 GDP growth forecast to 1.6%.
4. Reuters. (2024, November 13). Thai Fin Min eyes 2025 GDP growth 3.5%, plans more stimulus.
5. Reuters. (2024, November 20). Thailand expects to distribute USD4 billion handouts in Q2 next year.
6. Thailand International Woodworking Exhibition. (2024). Thailand International Woodworking & Furniture Exhibition 2024 to open in Bangkok this September. Thailand International Woodworking Exhibition.
7. Thailand International Woodworking Exhibition. (2024). Thailand Furniture Industry Research Report 2024-2033. Thailand International Woodworking Exhibition.





Indonesia

Govt Seeks To Expand Potential Of Forests With Sustainable Use

Indonesia's Forestry Minister, Raja Juli Antoni, has announced a strategic initiative to enhance the sustainable use of forest areas through a multi-business forestry model. This approach aims to diversify forest utilization beyond traditional logging by incorporating ecotourism, non-timber forest products, environmental services, and agroforestry. The goal is to stimulate local economies, empower forest communities, and ensure a more equitable distribution of forest benefits while maintaining ecological balance and respecting social values.

“To expedite the implementation of this model, a dedicated working team has been established. The ministry emphasizes the need for collaboration with partners to enhance capacity building, market access, innovation, and investment. Additionally, the government is prioritizing the formal recognition of customary forests, acknowledging their significance to indigenous communities and reinforcing commitments to social forestry and the protection of customary rights.”

Minister Antoni highlighted that these efforts are part of a broader vision to develop a forestry sector that is adaptive, inclusive, and resilient. This aligns with Indonesia's national development objectives and global environmental commitments, aiming to create a sustainable framework that benefits both the environment and the communities that depend on forest resources.

Source: <https://en.antaranews.com>, 12 April 2025



Vietnam

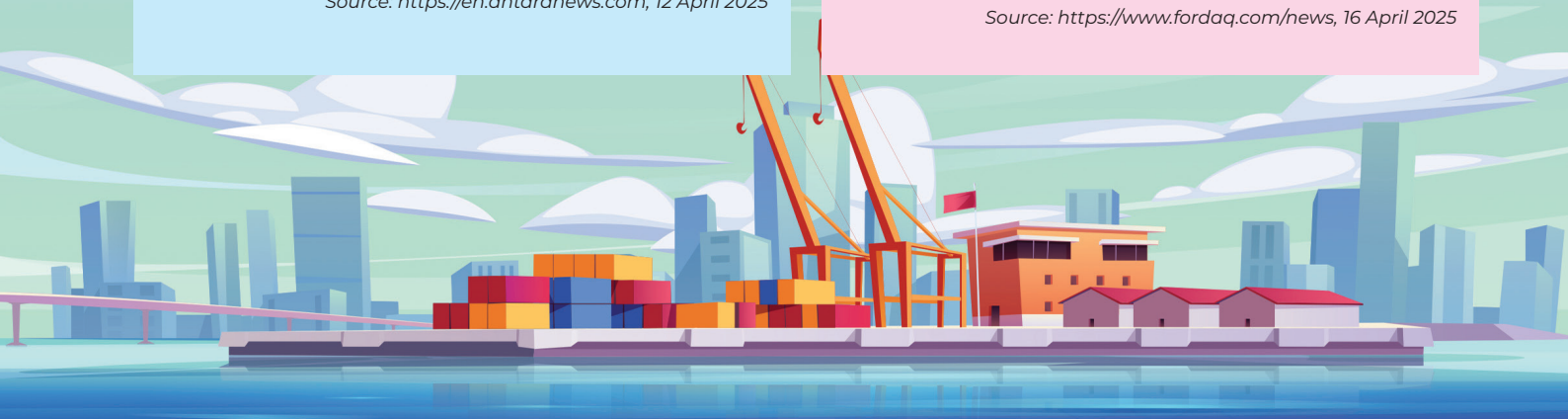
Viet Nam's Wood Exports Surge In March 2025

It is estimated that Vietnam's (wood and wood product export) W&WP exports in March 2025 reached USD1.5 billion, an increase of 46% compared to February 2025 and an increase of 15% compared to March 2024. Of this WP exports contributed USD1.01 billion, up 52% from February 2025 and up 13% from March 2024. For the first three months of 2025 total W&WP exports recorded USD3.95 billion, up 12% over the same period in 2024. Of which WP exports accounted for USD2.67 billion, up 11% over the same period in 2024. W&WP exports to the US in March 2025 fetched USD764 million, up 46% from February 2025 and up 9% from March 2024. For the first three months of 2025 total exports to the US reached USD2.07 billion, up 9% over the same period in 2024.

“Vietnam's exports of office furniture in March 2025 amounted to USD27.7 million, an increase of 32% from February 2025 and an increase of 15% from March 2024. For the first three months of 2025 exports of office furniture earned USD78.5 million, up 22% over the same period in 2024. Vietnam's W&WP imports in March 2025 were valued at USD260.0 million, up 25% from February 2025 and up 35% from March 2024.”

Vietnam's imports of oak in March 2025 were 41,300 cubic meter, worth USD24.4 million, an increase of 24% in volume and 25% in value compared to February 2025 and up 20% in volume and 19% in value compared to March 2024. For the first three months of 2025 imports of W&WP totalled 96,200 cubic meters worth USD57.4 million, up 30% in volume and 34% in value compared to the same period in 2024.

Source: <https://www.fordaq.com/news>, 16 April 2025





China Construction Market Forecast Report 2025-2029

The Chinese construction industry is poised for consistent growth, with a projected 3.2% increase in 2025, driven mainly by infrastructure and energy developments. Major initiatives like the Xiongan High-Speed Railway's 468.5 km project and other large-scale investments are expected to boost momentum. Additionally, early 2025 interest rate cuts by the Central Bank of China are set to stimulate further activity. While the residential sector faces short-term hurdles due to low demand and high developer debt, the industry is forecasted to grow at an average rate of 4.1% from 2026 to 2029.

Despite these residential challenges, the broader construction market remains maintained by strategic investments. Following a 3.8% growth in 2024, continued development in infrastructure and utilities is expected to support the sector.

Government-backed projects, such as the multi-billion-dollar Yichang-Fuling rail line, demonstrate the scale of ongoing construction efforts. However, market uncertainty persists amid geopolitical tensions, particularly US-China trade disputes, which may impact investor confidence and overall industry sentiment.

Looking ahead, China's ambitious climate targets are also shaping the construction landscape. As part of its net-zero emissions goal by 2060, the government is ramping up green energy initiatives, including plans in Shanghai for 4.5 million kW of solar capacity and expanded offshore wind projects. A major highlight is the approval of the world's largest dam on the Yarlung Zangbo River, aligning with the 14th Five-Year Plan and representing a CNY975.6 billion investment in sustainable infrastructure.

Source: <https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news>, 21 April 2025



Report Highlights “Crisis” In French Construction And Renovation Sectors

The French construction and renovation sectors are facing a continued “crisis,” as reported by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) in its latest newsletter. Citing data from the Memento publication, produced by the Forest, Cellulose, Wood Construction and Furniture Technical Institute (FCBA), the report highlights a 14% decline in housing starts in 2024 compared to the previous year—an indication of ongoing challenges in the industry.

According to the report, both national and international uncertainties are placing pressure on France's economy, leading to reduced investment levels. Despite early signs of falling interest rates, these changes have yet to produce any meaningful economic recovery. Meanwhile, prices for standing timber have been trending downward since 2022, though they remain higher than in previous years.

Despite the current downturn, the FCBA remains optimistic about the future. The report points to the growing importance of the low-carbon agenda as a promising driver for long-term growth and sustainability in the timber and construction sectors, offering hope for a gradual recovery and transformation of the industry.

Source: <https://www.globalwood.org>, 18 April 2025





Europe Adopts New Standard To Tighten Formaldehyde Limits In Wood Panels

Europe has officially adopted the EN ISO 12460-2:2025 standard to reinforce control over formaldehyde emissions from wood-based panels. Released by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the new regulation introduces a harmonized testing method—known as the small-scale chamber method—designed to ensure better indoor air quality and enhance consumer safety.

The updated standard applies to a wide range of engineered wood products and provides a more precise framework for determining formaldehyde release levels. Formaldehyde, commonly found in adhesives and resins used in panel production, is a key contributor to indoor air pollution. Extended exposure to high concentrations can pose health risks, making consistent and accurate testing increasingly important for regulatory compliance.

Part of the broader ISO 12460 series, the EN ISO 12460-2:2025 standard emphasizes laboratory testing under controlled conditions, providing reliable and repeatable results. According to CEN, the small-scale chamber method offers a balance between accuracy and practicality, making it suitable for both routine quality control and certification procedures.

The introduction of the new standard comes as global focus intensifies on indoor environmental quality and product safety. European regulators are responding with tighter emission thresholds and stricter monitoring requirements. The EN ISO 12460-2:2025 is expected to serve not only the EU market but also support international trade by offering a unified approach to formaldehyde emission testing.

CEN stated that the new regulation aligns with its broader commitment to safety, transparency, and sustainability in the wood sector. Beyond consumer protection, the standard is also expected to encourage manufacturers to adopt cleaner technologies and low-emission raw materials, aiding the industry's shift toward greener practices.

With the EN ISO 12460-2:2025 now in force, companies operating in and exporting to the European market will need to align with the updated requirements to remain competitive and compliant.

Source: <https://EC.Fordaq>, 15 April 2025.

European Furniture Surge Puts Russian Producers Under Pressure

Over USD430 million worth of European furniture is expected to enter the Russian market in 2025, driven by a strong rouble, low import tariffs and declining demand in Europe. The Furniture Association of Russia (FER) has called on President Vladimir Putin to increase import duties to protect domestic manufacturers, warning that current policies are undermining the local industry. The rouble appreciated 15% against the euro in the first quarter of 2025, reducing the cost of European imports for Russian buyers. At the same time, Russian producers are facing rising costs for materials such as plywood, MDF and particleboard, which are expected to increase by over 15%—outpacing inflation for the first time in years.

Currently, European furniture imports face tariffs of just 9–12%, despite European nations imposing sanctions of 30–60% on Russian goods. The FER argues that this imbalance is harming Russia's manufacturers, especially as European firms benefit from subsidies and tax incentives that allow them to undercut local prices. Italy and Germany are leading the surge in exports to Russia, with volumes returning to near pre-COVID and pre-war levels. European furniture demand has dropped from €48.5 billion in 2021 to €38 billion in 2024, prompting manufacturers to seek alternative markets like Russia.

Meanwhile, Russian domestic furniture production has declined by 2%, with firms struggling to absorb rising supplier costs and intensified competition. The FER stated: 'If the US can prioritise domestic production regardless of trade agreements, Russia should adopt a similar stance to safeguard its industry.' The association is urging policymakers to mirror protectionist strategies, such as those under consideration in the United States, to ensure the long-term viability of Russia's furniture sector.

Source: <https://www.interiordaily.com>, 17 April 2025.

Delegated Act on The EUDR - Less Bureaucracy In Sight

The draft of a delegated act recently published by the EU Commission, along with new guidelines for the implementation of the EUDR, is generally viewed by the German Sawmill and Timber Industry Association (DeSH) as a step in the right direction. The planned reduction of excessive bureaucracy shows that the considerable concerns raised by practitioners are slowly reaching Brussels. However, in light of global political developments, the DeSH continues to see a need for revision of the EUDR, both in terms of timing and content.

"Especially in times of trade conflicts, additional hurdles and obstacles, such as those imposed by the EUDR, must be urgently avoided," explains DeSH Managing Director Julia Möbus.

The aim of the simplifications is to reduce the administrative burden for companies as much as possible – by introducing annual due diligence declarations instead of detailed documentation of product batches or by strengthening the role of authorized representatives for small and medium-sized suppliers. “The requirements of the EUDR must not ignore the reality of companies. Reducing administrative burdens will therefore be an essential prerequisite for acceptance and implementation in practice. The goal remains to steadily reduce the requirements in low-risk countries,” Möbus demands.

Source: <https://www.DeSH>, 22 April 2025



Australia

Not Enough Houses are Being Built In Australia

Australia is currently falling short of its housing construction targets, with significant gaps between current building rates and the federal government's goal of 1.2 million new homes over five years. Recent figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that construction starts and completions have declined, with only about 43,000 houses being built per quarter, well below the 57,000 needed to meet the target. Contributing factors include labor and material shortages, complex planning processes, high interest rates, and stagnant productivity in the construction sector.

“Experts note that while some challenges are temporary, such as supply chain disruptions, others like skill shortages and fragmented industry structure require long-term reforms. Additionally, immigration is not a simple fix due to visa limitations and the lower likelihood of migrants working in construction. Analysts emphasize that ambitious targets should act as a catalyst for broader structural reforms, including streamlined planning approvals, improved training and apprenticeships, and recognition of overseas qualifications to address labor deficits and boost construction rates.”

The federal government's Housing Accord, aiming for 1.2 million new homes by 2029, is at risk unless these systemic issues are addressed. Without significant reforms, Australia may continue to experience a housing shortfall, exacerbating affordability issues and impacting economic stability. Policymakers are urged to implement comprehensive strategies to overcome these challenges and meet the nation's housing needs.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/news>, 16 April 2025



Brazil

Brazilian Exports Of Wood Products Drop

In February 2025 Brazilian exports of wood products (except pulp and paper) decreased 8.5% in value compared to February 2024, from USD304.5 million to USD278.6 million.

Pine sawnwood exports increased 21% in value between February 2024 (USD55.6 million) and February 2025 (USD67.5 million). In volume, exports increased 15% over the same period, from 248,500 cubic metre to 285,100 cubic metre.

Tropical sawnwood exports decreased 0.5% in volume, from 21,000 cubic metre in February 2024 to 20,900 cubic metre in February 2025. In value, exports decreased 18% from USD10.4 million to USD8.5 million over the same period.

Pine plywood exports increased 0.2% in value in February 2025 compared to February 2024, from USD57.5 million to USD57.6 million. In volume, exports increased just over 3% over the same period, from 180,300 cubic metre to 186,400 cubic metre.

“As for tropical plywood, exports increased in volume by 28% and in value by 30%, from 1,000 cubic metre and USD1.8 million in February 2024 to 1,300 cubic metre and USD2.3 million in February 2025.”

The value of wooden furniture exports increased from USD45.8 million in February 2024 to USD46.3 million in February 2025, an increase of 1%.



Housing Starts Rebound In April

Overall housing starts decreased 11.4% in March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.32 million units, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The March reading of 1.32 million starts is the number of housing units builders would begin if development kept this pace for the next 12 months. Within this overall number, single-family starts decreased 14.2% to a 940,000 seasonally adjusted annual rate over the month and are down 9.7% compared to March 2024. On a year-to-date basis, single-family starts are down 5.6%. The three-month moving average (a useful gauge given recent volatility) is down to 1.01 million units, as charted below.

“The multifamily sector, which includes apartment buildings and condos, decreased 3.5% to an annualized 384,000 pace. The three-month moving average for multifamily construction has trended upward to a 381,000-unit annual rate. On a year-over-year basis, multifamily construction is up 48.8%.”

The total number of single-family homes and apartments under construction was 1.4 million in March. This is the lowest total since July 2021. Total housing units now under construction are 15.2% lower than a year ago. Single-family units under construction fell to a count of 632,000—down 8.7% compared to a year ago. The number of multifamily units under construction has fallen to 759,000 units. This is down 20.0% compared to a year ago.



Gabon Plans A Production Up

In the fourth quarter of 2024, Gabon's timber industry experienced a significant downturn, with the composite index for sectoral activities declining by 6.6% compared to the previous quarter. This contraction was primarily attributed to insufficient log supplies and a decrease in demand from China, a key export market. The sawmill production index fell by 5.3% for the third consecutive quarter, impacted by a sparse order book and operational challenges, including frequent power outages. Veneer production also saw a decline of 4%, while plywood production experienced the sharpest drop at 24%, largely due to electricity shortages and limited log availability.

“Despite these quarterly declines, the plywood sector demonstrated resilience over the year, recording a notable annual increase of 27%. However, the industry's overall performance was hampered by structural issues. In the Nkok Special Economic Zone, approximately 50% of Indian veneer peeler mills ceased operations due to a lack of orders from their regular customers. This highlights the vulnerability of the sector to external demand fluctuations and underscores the need for diversification and strengthening of domestic supply chains.”

Looking ahead, the Gabonese government has set ambitious targets to revitalize the timber industry. Plans are underway to increase sawn wood production to 1.4 million tonnes in 2025, up from 1.3 million tonnes in 2024, representing a 3.2% growth. This growth is expected to be driven by the dynamism of special economic zones like Nkok, which contribute significantly to the country's exports. Additionally, reforms such as the revision of the forestry code and the development of a wood exchange platform aim to enhance the sector's efficiency and global competitiveness.

Source: <https://www.itto.int/market>, 15 April 2025



Global

125% U.S. Tariff Choke Hardwood Trade

A fresh wave of U.S. tariffs some as steep as 125% on select Chinese goods is expected to heavily impact China's furniture and wood processing industries, which rely substantially on imported hardwoods. Though the tariffs are targeted at specific product categories, analysts anticipate broad ripple effects throughout the Chinese supply chain, particularly for manufacturers of high-end interior products. With raw material prices likely to surge, the cost burden will fall on furniture makers who already depend on expensive tropical and temperate hardwoods for veneer, cabinetry, and flooring.

In 2024, China imported over 10 million cubic meters of non-coniferous logs at an average cost of USD 344 per cubic meter, sourced predominantly from the U.S., Southeast Asia, and South America. The new tariff regime is expected to trigger a rethinking of global supply routes. While some U.S. hardwood exports to China are being rerouted through third countries like Vietnam or processed in Canada before being sent to

China, these workarounds only partially mitigate the disruptions. China's retaliatory tariffs, paired with those from Canada, have all but halted direct U.S. hardwood exports to both markets.

“Canada, which enacted its own tariffs in response to U.S. duties on automobiles, is seeing a reshuffle in its wood trade. Canadian sawmills are increasingly purchasing raw U.S. logs—still free from tariffs—especially high-value species, and converting them to finished products for export. Meanwhile, Canadian concentration yards are holding back on green lumber purchases as the market awaits political developments following upcoming elections. Operators are working to maintain relationships with U.S. suppliers while maximizing output from Canadian mills to meet ongoing Chinese demand.”

In Vietnam, sawmills are running at full capacity, processing U.S. hardwood logs into lumber for export to China. In Europe, U.S. exporters have received a temporary break with a 90-day pause on tariffs linked to earlier steel duties, but attention is turning to the forthcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which could further complicate market access. Industry insiders caution that prolonged trade uncertainty and elevated costs could permanently alter sourcing strategies and production methods. Furniture manufacturers are exploring alternatives such as new supply partners, design changes to limit hardwood usage, and greater efficiency in raw material use—all while hoping diplomatic solutions emerge to stabilize the global hardwood trade.

Source: <https://www.globalwood.org/news>, 14 April 2025.



**KAYU
MALAYSIA**
Standing on Excellence
Becoming a legacy
over generations...

Six Factors That Enabled China To Dominate Global Shipbuilding

The dominance of China in the newbuilding the market has come under intense scrutiny with the investigations by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) – but how did the country's shipyards achieve such a leading position? Speaking on the 'Shipbuilding – a macro view' panel at Sea Asia 2025 Adam Kent, Managing Director of Maritime Strategies International (MSI) noted that last year Chinese yards captured around 75% of all new orders and in sectors such as dry bulk and container shipping the share of contracts was around 80%. "In 2000 China was responsible for less than 10% of shipyard output and over the course of the last 25 years has gone from a minor player to being a very, very dominant player," he said. Answering the question as to how China had achieved such rapid domination of the global shipbuilding market Kent attributed it to a number of factors.

One factor was the support from the authorities. "Shipbuilding has been identified as a strategic industry by both regional and local governments in China, and there has been a lot of support for shipbuilding throughout that period, even during the market trough in 2012-2016," he explained.

A second factor was lower pricing to attract owners to order at Chinese yards. Kent explained that the country's yards had been able to attract orders that would have traditionally gone to Japanese or Korean yards by offering prices that could in the range of double digits lower, however, this lower cost did sometimes come at the expense of quality. "But what I would say is from speaking the yards, speaking to owners, and speaking to investors, is that the quality gap has closed a lot over the course of the last 15 years or so. So that is a huge positive now that you can still get a vessel slightly cheaper in China, but the quality in many instances is as good as you'd get elsewhere."

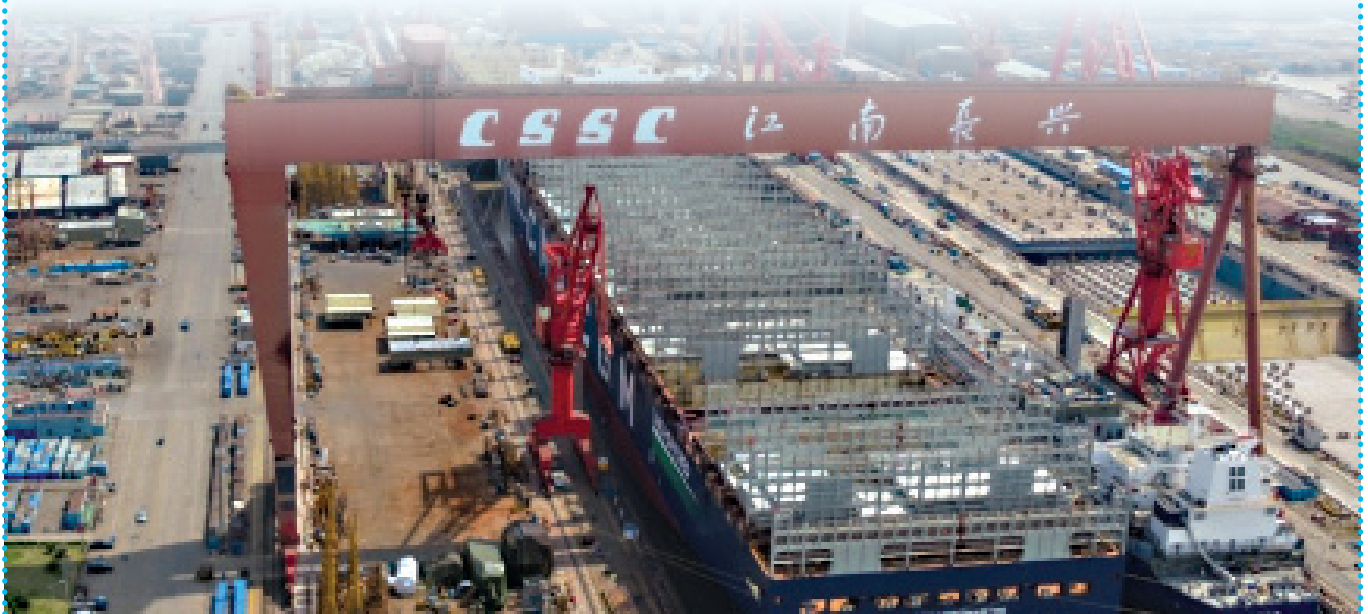
A third factor is flexibility in terms of design and equipment. Korean yards specialised in building series designs off the shelf. "Whereas if you go to a Chinese yard,

you can talk to them about what sort of vessel you want, what design, what equipment onboard the ship you would like to see and they will accommodate that," Kent said. However, an equipment manufacturer *Seatrade Maritime News* spoke to at the exhibition said that with the recent boom in orders at Chinese shipbuilders the yards had become less flexible than they were in the past. However, Chinese yards were still more flexible in terms of specific equipment requirements from owners than the Korean yards. He noted that the Japanese yards were the least flexible.

A fourth factor according to Kent is Chinese yards having started from building dry bulk vessels they now offer the full range of ship types including some offshore assets. A fifth factor is productivity at Chinese shipbuilders. The downturn in the country's construction sector has seen workers involved previously in welding work for heavy industry and infrastructure moving across to work in shipyards. "We've seen in shipyards in China that productivity has gone through the roof. I speak to owners' and they tell me that the Chinese yards are trying to give them their vessels six months before the original scheduled delivery date," Kent said.

On top of the boost in productivity is the reactivation of yards mothballed in the 2013 – 2019 period and new capacity being developed. A sixth factor is finance. "I think you should also not underestimate the support the Chinese yards get from financial institutions in China," Kent told the conference. Up to 2009 newbuilding finance was dominated by European banks. Today the ship finance landscape is dominated by Asian banks, and Chinese banks and leasing houses supported shipbuilding even in the lean times and that is a partnership that China has benefitted from. "The Chinese yards have sort of wrapped up shipbuilding basically and it's getting more and more difficult for the other big powerhouses - the shipyards in Japan and Korea to compete," Kent stated.

Source: *SeatradeMaritime_28 March 2025*



Trump's Tariffs Trigger Massive Stock Sell-Offs

Car carriers could feel the squeeze if US tariffs on European cars and fees for Chinese-built ships come into force. More than €13bn was wiped off European car makers' shares in early trading this morning after President Trump declared a tariff war on European car manufacturers, slapping on a 25% tariff from next week.

Analysts were unclear whether the 78-year-old President plans to follow through with this tariff plan, or whether this is a key element in his deal-making strategy in which, he claims, to be an expert. Taking his announcement at face value, however, the move has far-reaching implications for the many vehicle-carrying shipping companies whose pure car truck carriers (PCTCs) are deployed in this usually inelastic trade across the waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

While many European vehicle manufacturers have established onshore plants in the US, they depend on a steady supply of parts from their European parents. These will also fall into under Trump's new tariff regime.

Furthermore, many of these cargoes will inevitably be shipped on vessels that were built in China. These ships will incur penalties of \$1.5m every time they arrive in a US port, under proposed rules. So there could be a future where car parts on board will suffer two additional taxes, one tariff and one 'landing fee', possibly pricing them out of any form of effective competition in the country.

However, some economists warn that the tariff-touting President has got things wrong and that his import strategy is likely to damage the country's economy in a major way. Certainly, key US economic indicators are not looking favourable, with the S&P 500 Index down about 2.6% over the last month. Meanwhile US consumer sentiment has fallen to around 57.9 in March, the lowest level since November 2022 and one that often signals a possible recession, according to The Economist newspaper.

Trump, however, has declared his support for tariffs and has used them before, during his first presidency. Now, he believes that they offer a fast-track route to achieving his 'MAGA' aim. He says they will boost the US economy, raise revenue, and result in foreign companies paying for domestic tax cuts. They will also close the US trade deficit, he believes.

Economists argue that this makes no sense. Tariffs, they point out, make imports more expensive and will result, in this case, in Americans buying fewer cars from the EU. This will result in less demand to swap dollars for foreign currencies, driving up the value of the dollar which, in turn, makes US exports more expensive.

The resulting reduction in demand for US exports, therefore, effectively becomes an export tax. So there is now both an import and an export tax. This is likely to be exacerbated by tit-for-tat tariffs imposed by other countries which further harm US export trade. So tariffs are not a trade stimulant; they're a constraint.

It's been a grim day for European car makers. But it could be truly disastrous for the buoyant vehicle-carrying shipping sector in the western hemisphere. What nobody is saying, or at least saying loudly, is that this could be an opening strategy from which the unpredictable US President will row back in the days ahead.

Source: SeatradeMaritimeNews_27 march 2025



Geopolitical Tensions Reshaping Global Trade



Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong highlighted an acceleration of structural shifts between major powers which the maritime sector needs to prepare for. Giving the annual Singapore Maritime Lecture at the start of Singapore Maritime Week Senior Minister Lee noted this year's maritime week "takes place amidst an increasingly turbulent environment".

"The global industry, and Singapore's own maritime sector, will need to actively prepare for what lies ahead," he said. The Senior Minister mapped out how over the last decade geopolitical developments were starting to severely strain the global trading system. He noted that countries had become increasingly anxious to stay ahead of each other and were "prioritising security, resilience and self-reliance, over interdependence and co-operation."

"Supply chains – once optimised for economic efficiency – are being reconfigured through friend-shoring, near-shoring, and re-shoring." SM Lee said, "Some big powers are adopting a more transactional, sometimes coercive,

approach,” and “these structural shifts have accelerated in recent months”, which times with the coming into power of US President Donald Trump.

“A new administration in the US believes that under the previous system, ‘the US has been treated unfairly by its trading partners, both friend and foe’ – far from the erstwhile win-win view of international trade, investments, or multilateral agreements,” he said.

“Tariffs are being used as a bargaining chip in non-economic discussions and other countries respond in kind. Speaking in a fireside chat following the lecture SM Lee said that an economist would tell China not to respond to tariffs and keep calm and carry on, as doing something in reply also hurts your own economy, but that politically this was not possible.”

“So, when somebody does this to you politically, even if he’s your best friend, you have to do something to show that you have taken note that he has done this to you, and you have to respond,” SM Lee explained.

In his speech alluding to recent developments with the US in terms of fees for Chinese -built ships and the sale ports in Panama SM Lee said: “The maritime industry is itself directly affected, with countries acting to reduce reliance on competitors for freight shipping and shipbuilding, or displace rivals controlling strategically located ports.”

On top of geopolitical events comes climate change which is also reshaping global trade.

The result could be a turning point where global trade growth no longer keeps pace with GDP.

“Given the heightened strategic tensions and policy uncertainty, we cannot assume that global trade will continue to keep pace with GDP. If the trade-to-GDP ratio starts to fall, there will be serious economic and strategic implications,” SM Lee said.

This would dampen economic growth in many countries, cause further social and political problems. “In that event, the world would truly enter a new epoch, which it has not seen since the Second World War.”

The Senior Minister did note, “Naturally, our hope is that whatever the uncertainties and turbulence ahead, world trade will continue to grow.”

Source: *SeatradeMaritimeNews_24 march 2025*

UAE Strengthens Its Position As A Global Maritime Hub

Over the past five years, the UAE has become a key destination for global maritime companies, offering advantages such as a zero-income tax policy, world-class infrastructure. Emirates Shipping Association highlights how the UAE is solidifying its position as a global maritime powerhouse, leveraging strategic policies, a prime location, and a bold commitment to sustainability.

UAE: A global maritime powerhouse

Over the past five years, the UAE has become a key destination for global maritime companies, offering advantages such as a zero-income tax policy, world-class infrastructure, and a strategic location bridging Europe and Asia.

H.E. Hessa Al Malek, Advisor to the Minister for Maritime Transport Affairs, UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, reaffirmed the UAE’s leading role in shaping the maritime industry:

The UAE is among the most influential countries in developing the maritime industry and has established its pioneering status among the leading maritime hubs globally. With a mission to bring together ship owners, industry suppliers, and key decision-makers in the sector through strategic networking opportunities and closed-door leadership roundtables, Emirates Shipping Association aims to help its members promote, secure, and expand the global maritime industry.

Accelerating decarbonisation: UAE’s First LNG bunkering milestone

While decarbonisation is often seen as a long-term goal, Monjasa’s LNG bunkering milestone proves that tangible progress is happening today. On 4 January 2025, Monjasa successfully conducted the Middle East’s first LNG bunkering operation at Dubai Harbour Cruise Terminal B, supplying Costa Cruises, part of Carnival Corporation. This was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Carnival, Costa Cruises, ADNOC L&S, and the UAE’s federal and local authorities, who continue to drive maritime innovation.

Anders Østergaard, Group CEO of Monjasa, stated: “Actions speak louder than words. This successful operation marks the UAE’s commitment to alternative fuels today, not just in the future. We are actively contributing to the transition towards a more sustainable maritime sector. This achievement is not just about LNG; it is about showing that change is happening now, thanks to the UAE’s vision and leadership in sustainable shipping.”

Monjasa continues to collaborate with UAE authorities, energy companies, and shipowners to develop the LNG bunkering infrastructure to support the region’s expanding dual-fuel fleet.

Balancing economic growth with sustainability

Shipping accounts for 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but remains the most carbon-efficient transport mode (10-15g CO₂ per tonne-kilometre) compared to road (60-150g) and air (500+g).



UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan underscored the importance for balance:

“Maritime transport must decarbonise while ensuring economic growth. Balancing environmental sustainability, regulatory compliance, and economic demands is essential for a resilient future.”

With Dubai having hosted COP28 in 2024 and demonstrating leadership in sustainability, the UAE is positioning itself as a leader in green shipping solutions.

Investing in future maritime leaders

To advance decarbonisation efforts, Emirates Shipping Association, under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MOEI), partnered with A.P. Moller-Mærsk to host UAE maritime leaders in Copenhagen for MLP24. Industry experts from Mærsk Line, the Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, and MAN Energy Solutions shared key insights on dual-fuel technology and retrofitting vessels to meet evolving sustainability standards.

Dr. Waddah S. Ghanem Al Hashmi, Sr. Director at ENOC, Board Member at Emirates Shipping Association, and MLP24 Program Director, highlighted:

“The Maritime Leadership Program is a testament to our commitment to advancing the UAE maritime industry. By providing our leaders with access to the latest innovations and best practices, we are ensuring they are well-equipped to drive sustainable growth and competitiveness in the global maritime sector.”

Emirates Shipping Association launches specialised committees to drive maritime sector advancement

In its ongoing commitment to enhance the UAE's maritime industry, the Association has launched specialised committees to advance key industry initiatives, including:

- Advancing the UAE registry as a flag state
 - Standardising UAE tax policies
 - Decarbonisation and alternative fuel adoption
 - Leadership and sustainability initiatives

These committees provide a platform for collaboration, enabling members to engage with industry and government stakeholders, including the Ministries of Energy and Infrastructure, Finance, and Economy. By participating in these committees, members can actively contribute to the growth, innovation, and global competitiveness of the maritime sector.

A young shipping nation with a bold vision

As the UAE expands its shipping registry and attracts global players, the Association is working with government entities to enhance ship finance, maritime law, and essential industry services in Dubai. Huma Qureshi, General Manager of Emirates Shipping Association noted: “Our focus is on creating a cohesive ecosystem that integrates sustainability, innovation, and economic growth. The opportunities for maritime companies here are immense, and Dubai's strategic positioning gives it a unique edge.”

Source: Maritim gateway_19 March 2025

China Building 62% of New Ships Ordered Globally

China has cemented its position as the world's top shipbuilding nation as it secured orders for 3,454 out of a total of 5,735 vessels in the current global orderbook. This represents an orderbook share of 62.42% or a total of 175.4 million gross tons, according to information provided by Greek shipbroking services provider Intermodal.

“China, Japan and South Korea dominate with combined orders of over 90% of the world's orderbook. South Korea ranks second with an orderbook share of 21.39% or 687 ships, while Japan is placed third with a share of 8.83% or 651 units. The Asian nations' dominance in shipbuilding is supported by the rise in clean fuel-powered ships. As Offshore Energy reported in late December 2024, the world's dual-fuel fleet surged to 2,119 vessels. The increase seems to be prompted by a tightening regulatory landscape and solid financing opportunities.”

Moving to the US shipbuilding, the orderbook is a small fraction of the total, counting 52 units of about 245,000 gross tons primarily consisting of tugboats and passenger/cruise vessels, Intermodal shared. “However, the U.S. has significant potential for expansion, bolstered by robust investment capabilities, international partnerships (such as with CMA CGM), military shipbuilding expertise, and cutting-edge technologies, combined with the government commitment to grow the national shipbuilding industry. The developments in the shipbuilding market are set to attract significant attention in the coming years,” Nikos Tagoulis, Senior Analyst at Intermodal, believes. “While China, South Korea, and Japan remain dominant forces, the USA, Vietnam, and India are positioning themselves as emerging players, poised to challenge the status quo and strengthen their market presence.”

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) concluded in January that China's ‘targeted dominance’ in maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors is ‘unreasonable’ and ‘burdens or restricts U.S. commerce’. Ambassador Katherine Tai, who is the principal trade advisor, negotiator, and spokesperson on U.S. trade policy, said that China is building more than 1,700 ships per year, while the US constructs less than five vessels annually.

In late February 2025, USTR proposed a measure to charge a fee of up to \$1.5 million for Chinese-built vessels entering US ports in an attempt to curb China's dominance in maritime. This measure, along with several others, targets Chinese ship operators and Chinese-built vessels and promotes the transport of US goods on domestic vessels. Last week, US President Donald Trump also proposed a ‘sweeping’ plan to revive US shipbuilding, pledging renewed efforts to strengthen both military and commercial vessel production while speaking to the US Congress. He

unveiled the establishment of a brand-new Office of Shipbuilding in the White House and the introduction of special tax incentives for shipyards to 'bring back' manufacturing to US shores, "where it belongs".

Following Trump's announcement, French shipping giant CMA CGM revealed its intention to invest \$20 billion over the next four years to strengthen the U.S. maritime transport and logistics, boosting the maritime economy and fostering shipbuilding capabilities. The shipping player said it intends to foster U.S. shipbuilding capabilities, expand port infrastructure, grow logistics networks, and develop air cargo services through the latest investment.

In the context of the proposed tariffs, China's foreign ministry held a press conference on March 7, 2025, explaining its position on the issue. The government said that the new US plan could only negatively affect global supply and industrial chains but not necessarily revitalize the United States' shipbuilding industry.

Source: Maritimegateway_17 March 2025

South Africa Seeks Operator for Multipurpose Terminal In Durban

South Africa's Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is looking for an operator for a multipurpose terminal in Durban.

The state-run ports and freight-rail operator has invited interested parties to submit proposals to design, develop, fund, build, operate, maintain, and transfer the terminal in the Maydon Wharf Precinct for a 25-year concession period.

The precinct, extending about 145 hectares, with 15 berths and a capacity of over 7m tonnes of cargo annually, primarily serves as a mixed-use area hosting a cargo terminal for dry bulk, breakbulk, a limited amount of liquid bulk, and a small number of containerised units.

The site consists of two leases with a total area of 25,125 sq m. One lease is a brownfield site that includes the main administration building, an office block, and a workshop.

"The issuance of this RFP signifies our ongoing and intentional efforts to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the Port of Durban. By attracting capable terminal operators, we aim to modernise infrastructure, optimise cargo handling, and strengthen the port's role as a key trade gateway for the region," said Nkumbuzi Ben-Mazwi, acting port manager for the port of Durban.

Meanwhile, decision on who gets to operate South Africa's largest container port remains on hold. In 2023, Philippines-based International Container Terminal Services Inc (ICTSI) won the bid to operate the flagship Durban Container Terminal Pier 2 for 25 years, but that decision was challenged by losing bidder Maersk, which argued that the tender award was irregular. The matter is yet to be resolved in court.

Source: Splash247_10 March 2025

Trump Plans White House Office Of Shipbuilding

US President Donald Trump is pushing ahead with revitalising shipbuilding and has also doubled down on taking back control of the Panama Canal in a speech to a joint session of Congress. In wide-ranging remarks to a joint session of Congress by President Trump the topics of both shipbuilding and control of the Panama Canal featured.

"To boost our defence industrial base, we are also going to resurrect the American shipbuilding industry, including commercial shipbuilding and military shipbuilding. And for that purpose, I am announcing tonight that we will create a new office of shipbuilding in the White House and offer special tax incentives to bring this industry home to America, where it belongs," Trump told Congress.

A report by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in January, in the final days Biden administration said that US ranked first in 1975 in shipbuilding, launching 70 ships per year, today the US industry builds just five vessels compared to China's 1,700 ships per year.

More recent plans by the USTR to penalise China-built ships calling US ports are also aimed at bolstering the country's shipbuilding sector. Analysts remained unconvinced at any quick return to scale of shipbuilding in the US with new buildings built for the Jones Act trades multiple times more expensive than those constructed in Asia.

The state of US shipbuilding and moves to revitalise are also the focus of the SHIPS for America legislation introduced in late 2024 and set for re-introduction in the 119th Congress.

President Trump repeated statements about taking back control of the Panama Canal which would seem to go well beyond the sale of the two terminals controlled by Hong Kong-headquartered CK Hutchison to a consortium of BlackRock-TiL announced yesterday.

"To further enhance our national security, my administration will be reclaiming the Panama Canal, and we've already started doing it," the US President stated. "Just today, a large American company announced they are buying both ports around the Panama Canal and lots of other things having to do with the Panama Canal and a couple of other canals. The Panama Canal was built by Americans for Americans, not for others. But others could use it," he said.

"We didn't give it to China, we gave it to Panama, and we're taking it back."

Trump said that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who visited Panama in early February, was in charge and was doing a great job.

SeatradeMaritimeNews_5 March 2025

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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m ³)	% change Jan'25/ Feb'25
	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change		
Sawn Timber	30,164	1	116	408	310	-18	613	64	3,940	11	35,144	3
MDF	7,869	-9	0	0	1,749	-11	98	-87	72	-33	9,788	-15
Mouldings	14,463	-14	0	-100	1,326	8	2,112	-20	242	105	18,145	-13
Plywood	2,401	43	0	0	0	0	644	110	8,792	-9	11,836	1
Veneer	887	636	0	0	12	100	0	0	1,004	-59	887	636
Particleboard	9,835	33	0	0	99	30	0	0	8,544	30	18,479	32
Total	65,619	2	116	169	3,497	-5	3,467	-15	22,594	0	95,293	1

LOGS

The timber prices showed a decreasing trend in March 2025 compared to last month. Heavy hardwoods log like Chengal was priced at RM3,300/tonne, Balau at RM3,734/tonne, Red Balau at RM2,128/tonne and Merbau at RM2,850/tonne. For medium hardwoods, the price doesn't show a significant change compared to last month with Keruing priced at RM1,913/tonne, Kempas at RM1,353/tonne, Kapur at RM1,874/tonne, Mengkulang at RM1,736/tonne and Tualang at RM1,400/tonne. For light hardwood, the price showed small differences compared to last month with Dark Red Meranti at RM1,790/tonne, Red Meranti at RM1,927/tonne, Yellow Meranti at RM1,650/tonne, White Meranti at RM1,667/tonne, Mersawa at RM1,400/tonne, Nyatoh at RM1,373/tonne, Sepetir at RM1,180/tonne and Jelutong at RM1,225/tonne. As for rubberwood, the price decreased slightly to RM 203/tonne as compared to last month.

PLYWOODS

In March 2025, the plywood price segment didn't show any changes compared to last month. The prices were as follows: 4mm sheets were at RM19.50/sheet, 6mm sheets were at RM26.08/sheet, 9mm sheets were at RM38.30/sheet and 12mm sheets were at RM48.95/sheet.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD

As of March 2025, the MDF segment showed a small increment compared to last month. The price for 4mm thickness was RM12.90/piece, 6mm thickness was RM23.95/piece, 9mm thickness was RM31.70/piece and 12mm thickness was RM37.80/piece.

SAWN TIMBER

As of March 2025, the price for Chengal sawntimber decreased compared to last month particularly in the General Market Specification (GMS) grade with RM3,900/m³. Meanwhile the price for scantling remained at RM6,356/m³. This was followed by Balau with its GMS grade priced at RM3,825/m³ and scantlings at RM4,590/m³. As for medium hardwood, timber species such as Keruing were priced at RM3,037/m³ for GMS, scantling at RM2,495/m³ and strips at RM2,425/m³. Meanwhile, for Kempas, the price for GMS was RM2,166/m³, scantling was RM2,154/m³ and strips were RM2,048/m³. In March 2025, the price of rubberwood decreased to RM1,180/m³ for 1"x1", RM1,300/m³ for 2"x2", RM1,410/m³ for 3"x3" and RM1,460/m³ for 4"x4.

TRADE IN MALAYSIA – MARCH 2025

In March 2025, commerce between Sabah and Sarawak with Peninsular Malaysia totalled at 3,648 m³, with a value of RM6.52 million. Sabah remained the top contributor to the trade value for Peninsular, recording a trade value of RM2.51 million (1,232 m³) for plywood, followed by veneer with RM1.96 million and sawntimber with RM0.24 million. Meanwhile, in Sarawak, the trade value of plywood was RM1.01million and while sawntimber was at RM0.43 million.

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA				
RINGGIT MALAYSIA				
MARCH 2025				
SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD				
Chengal	3,300	3,900	2,790	6,356
Balau	3,734	3,825	1,826	4,590
Red Balau	2,128	2,150	2,119	2,419
Merbau	2,850	2,875	3,225	3,725
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,122	1,351	1,137	1,255
MEDIUM HARDWOOD				
Keruing	1,913	3,037	2,425	2,495
Kempas	1,353	2,166	2,048	2,154
Kapur	1,874	1,746	1,289	1,685
Mengkulang	1,736	1,201	1,365	1,871
Tualang	1,400	1,924	1,448	1,766
LIGHT HARDWOOD				
Dark Red Meranti	1,790	2,130	1,960	3,337
Red Meranti	1,927	1,777	2,013	2,331
Yellow Meranti	1,650	1,854	1,577	1,801
White Meranti	1,667	2,036	1,801	1,624
Mersawa	1,400	2,013	1,295	2,154
Nyatoh	1,373	1,783	1,819	1,201
Sepetir	1,180	1,819	1,660	1,295
Jelutong	1,225	2,119	1,589	1,819
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,220	1,278	1,095	1,165
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD Hevea brasiliensis	LOGS/ton 203	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
		1" X 1"	2"X2"	3"X 3"
		1,180	1,300	1,410
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm 19.50	6mm 26.08	9mm 38.30	12mm 48.95
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm 12.90	6mm 23.95	9mm 31.70	12mm 37.80

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

* Prices are only indicative

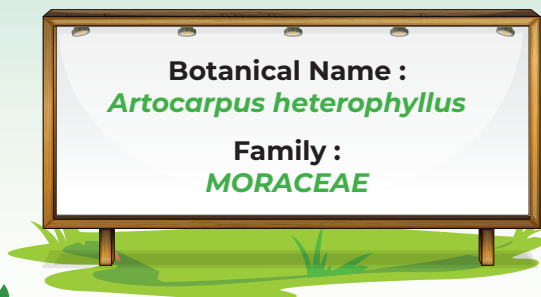
INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE

	February 25		March 25		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	FEB/MAR	FEB/MAR
Sabah						
Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawn Timber	582	1,220	266	241	-54	-80
Plywood	1,761	3,560	1,232	2,510	-30	-29
Veneer	479	1,175	888	1,959	85	67
Sarawak						
Logs	11	17	0	0	-100	-100
Sawn Timber	341	661	187	429	-45	-35
Plywood	482	572	942	1,005	96	76
Veneer	0	0	132	371	100	100

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

KAYU NANGKA – Jackfruit Wood

Prepared by: Encik Wing Bilong



Preface

The **jackfruit** or **nangka** (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) is a species of tree in the fig, mulberry, and breadfruit family (Moraceae). The jackfruit is the largest tree fruit, reaching as much as 55 kg (120 pounds) in weight, 90 cm (35 inches) in length, and 50 cm (20 inches) in diameter. A mature jackfruit tree produces some 200 fruits per year, with older trees bearing up to 500 fruits in a year. The jackfruit is a multiple fruit composed of hundreds to thousands of individual flowers, and the fleshy petals of the unripe fruit can be eaten by humans.

Nangka wood, also known as jackfruit wood, is the timber of the jackfruit tree (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*). It's a durable, golden-yellow wood with good grain and is often used for furniture, doors, windows, and roof construction, especially in South and Southeast Asia. The wood is also used in musical instrument making, and in some cultures, it's considered auspicious and used for sacred purposes.

The jackfruit tree is well-suited to tropical lowlands and is widely cultivated throughout tropical regions of the world, including India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the rainforests of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Australia.

Nangka/Jackfruit Tree and Fruits



Aesthetic Appeal

The beauty of the wood makes it a popular choice for making musical instruments and aesthetically appealing objects. Tree trunk showing texture and coloration.

Uses:

Nangka wood is used in furniture and house construction, including doors, windows, and roof structures. It's also used to make barrels for fish sauce and musical instruments like the *kutiyapi*, *gamelan* and acoustic guitar.

It also can be used as raw material for household needs as well as building elements:

1 Furniture - Wood from the tree can be made into furniture such as chairs, tables, buffets, beds, cabinets, and study tables.

2 Building Materials - The wood can be used to make window frames, shutters, door frames, roof frames, and door leaves. Because this wood is immune to termite attacks, it is often used as part of the building frame.

3 Various Craft Products - This wood is very suitable for various craft products, such as eyeglass frames, watches, wall clocks and bracelets. These products will look more beautiful if combined with the carvings of the archipelago.

4 Musical Instruments - The wood can be used to make musical instruments such as drums.

5 Home Development - Joglo houses in Java in ancient times used jackfruit wood as the basic material to produce interesting house shapes.

• Properties:

It's known for its termite resistance and ability to be carved. It's considered a hard, durable wood with a golden-yellow colour.

Wood and Manufacturing

The golden yellow timber with good grain is used for building furniture and house construction in India. It is termite-resistant and is superior to teak for building furniture. The wood of the jackfruit tree is important in Sri Lanka and is exported to Europe. Jackfruit wood is widely used in the manufacture of furniture, doors and windows, in roof construction, and fish sauce barrels.

The wood of the tree is used for the production of musical instruments. In Indonesia, hardwood from the trunk is carved out to form the barrels of drums used in the *gamelan*, and in the Philippines, its soft wood is made into the body of the *kutiyapi*, a type of boat lute. It is also used to make the body of the Indian string instrument *veena* and the drums *mridangam*, *thimila*, and *kanjira*.

Wood Texture of Jackfruit Wood



Wood anatomical features of *Artocarpus heterophyllus*

Various Products Made From Jackfruit Wood



Advantages and disadvantages of Jackfruit Wood

As one of the material that is used for making furniture. The advantages and disadvantages of the jackfruit wood are as below:

Advantages

- 1 Compact & Even Grained**
Jackwood is compact and finely grained. It is even-grained which gives it a good finish.
- 2 Easy To Work With**
It can be easily carved and designed to create furniture and other articles.
- 3 Aesthetic Appeal**
The beauty of the wood makes it a popular choice for making musical instruments and aesthetically appealing objects. It has a very attractive color with the middle part tending to be yellow, as well as having a unique fiber pattern. The color is stable for many years after the tree is cut down.
- 4 Resistant To Termite Attack**
The timber is classified as medium hardwood; it is resistant to termite attack, fungal and bacterial decay, easy to season, and takes polish beautifully.

Disadvantage

- Not as Strong as Teak**
Thus, though not as strong as teak, jackfruit wood is considered superior to teak for furniture, construction, turnery, masts, oars, implements, and musical instruments. The wood is widely used in Sri Lanka and India and is exported to Europe.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this wood has the potential to be a unique and interesting source of material. Research should be done to find ways in which it can be positioned as an option for forest plantation purposes in addition to being planted for fruit.

REFERENCES :

<https://www.wikipedia.org>, <https://www.google.com>, <https://kaliudagallery.com>, <https://www.beadsandpieces.com>, <https://www.exoticsolidwoodinstagram.com>, <https://www.depositphotos.com>, <https://www.shutterstock.com>, <https://www.ferangeliguitar.com>, <https://www.theguardian.com>, <https://www.flipkart.com>, www.homesandgarden.com, <https://www.depositphotos.com>, <https://www.dreamstime.com>, <https://www.plantarchives.org>

15 - 16 APRIL 2025

Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme for EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), held in Melaka, attended by MTIB officers

17 APRIL 2025

Briefing of the Incentive Scheme for the Inoculation Process of Hardwood Tree for Gaharu Production (Series 9: Lawas, Sarawak)

18 APRIL 2025

Guidance Session on the Bureaucracy Reform Project (RKB) 2025 with the Malaysian Productivity Council (MPC)

19 APRIL 2025

Ministry Of Plantations and Commodities (KPK) Aidil Fitri Open House 2025

26 APRIL 2025

Monitoring and Evaluation Visit of Bamboo Fiber Extraction Machine at Hangterra Sdn. Bhd.

29 APRIL 2025

Fibre and Biocomposite Centre (FIDEC) Facilities & Services Promotion Programme - Southern Zone 2025

30 APRIL 2025

Wood Understanding Course Certification: Exploring MTCS/ PEFC and FSC Programmes for Timber Certification Incentives (PIPK) - Timber Certification Incentive Program (TCIP)