

WORLD BAMBOO DAY

MALAYSIA 2025

- Charting Future of Skilled Talents in Malaysia's Wood Industry
- Wood Plastic Composite (WPC): Sustainable Green Product Community Innovation Programme



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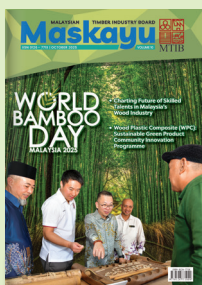


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WORLD BAMBOO DAY MALAYSIA 2025

Empowering the Nation's 'Green Gold' in Terengganu

Prepared by: Puan Norliwati Mohd Yusof

World Bamboo Day (WBD) is celebrated globally every year on September 18 to raise awareness of the potential of bamboo as a sustainable and renewable natural resource. To support this global initiative, Malaysia also holds large-scale national events annually promoting this invaluable natural resource - Green Gold.

This year World Bamboo Day Malaysia 2025 (WBD 2025) was held in Terengganu, Malaysia. The event marked a significant step in empowering the local bamboo industry and enhancing bamboo's role in the local circular economy and sustainable development. WBD 2025 aimed to act as a catalyst for the wider integration of bamboo into Malaysia's forestry and furniture industries, aligning with the nation's sustainability goals and green economic initiatives.

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) organised the WBD 2025 celebration which was held from 30 September to 2 October, 2025, at the Bamboo Model Plantation in Kuala Berang, Terengganu. The event was officially launched by YB Datuk Chan Foong Hin on behalf of the Minister of Plantation and Commodities.

Also present were YBhg. Dato' Razali Mohamad, Deputy Secretary-General of Plantation and Commodities, Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK); YB Datuk Larry Sng

Wei Shien, Chairman of MTIB; YBrs. Tuan Saiful Bahri Salleh, Director-General of MTIB and YBrs. Dr. Azman Mohamad, Chief Executive Officer of TTITC.

Various activities were conducted throughout the WBD 2025 celebration, including:

- Basic course on commercial bamboo cultivation
- DIY tasbih making
- DIY perfume making
- Bamboo-motif carving and colouring competitions
- Book sales and exhibitions of bamboo and timber-based products

WBD 2025 successfully provided a platform for industry players, entrepreneurs, government agencies, and the public to come together and witness sustainable bamboo cultivation practices and promote bamboo-based products. During the event, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) exchange for the e-PPLH Forest Plantation Monitoring Collaboration between MTIB and the Malaysian Space Agency (MYSA) was also held.

WBD 2025 attracted more than 400 visitors, demonstrating strong public interest in Malaysia's bamboo industry. 



Symbolic planting of bamboo for World Bamboo Day Malaysia 2025



MoU exchange for the e-PPLH Forest Plantation Monitoring Collaboration between MTIB and MYSA



Children colouring competition



Winners of the bamboo-motif carving contest



Visitors at the event



Wood Plastic Composite (WPC): Sustainable Green Product Community Innovation Programme

Prepared by: Puan Juliwar Idrus

The Wood Plastic Composite (WPC): Sustainable Green Product Innovation Programme with the Community was successfully organised by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) in collaboration with the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) and Tenvision Consulting (REKAYU). The programme was held on 1 October 2025, at Pusat Ekonomi Kitaran Kayu, MBSA in Seksyen U16 Shah Alam, Selangor. It took place in conjunction with the official launch ceremony of the centre.

The programme aimed to promote WPC as a sustainable alternative material in furniture manufacturing. It also provided a platform for the community to exchange ideas on different ways of working with WPC products for the production of eco-friendly furniture. WPC, which is produced from a combination of wood waste and plastic is suitable for use in various applications. A total of 40 participants, comprising community members and youth from the Shah Alam area, participated in the hands-on sessions.

The welcoming speech was delivered by YBrs. Ts. Farydatul Nazly Mohd Zin, Deputy Director General (Development & Commercial), MTIB while the opening ceremony was officiated by YBrs. Encik Mohammad Shakir Ameer Mohideen, MBSA Council Member and Chairman of the Residents' Representative Council (MPP) Zone 22. Also present were

Puan Nor Liza Mat Yasok, Director of the Biocomposite and Fiber Centre, MTIB; Encik Muhamad Faizal Ayob, Director of REKAYU; and YBrs. Puan Haslina Ab Aziz, Deputy Director of the MBSA Public Sanitation and Waste Sustainability Department.

The programme's agenda included a presentation by MTIB on the potential of WPC, a talk by REKAYU on sustainable carpentry projects with communities, and a hands-on session creating basic furniture using WPC. The participants successfully produced basic stools using WPC and gained a better understanding of WPC's potential as an alternative to wood, thus increasing their interest in sustainable carpentry.

The programme also provided valuable exposure to sustainable materials, focusing on WPC. Participants gained a better insight into WPC's potential as an alternative to traditional wood in furniture making, learned about the technology behind WPC in the timber industry, and experienced practical hands-on training in producing products using this eco-friendly material. It is hoped that such initiatives can become a continuous platform for fostering community interest in green innovation and contributing to sustainable socio-economic development.



Welcoming speech by YBrs. Ts. Farydatul Nazly Mohd Zin



Opening ceremony officiated by YBrs. Encik Mohammad Shakir Ameer Mohideen



MTIB, MBSA and REKAYU formally exchanged tokens of appreciation during the program



Hands-on session using WPC

Charting Future of Skilled Talents in Malaysia's Wood Industry

Prepared by: Ts. Norhasniza Mohd Rom

On 13 October 2025, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) in collaboration with the Malaysian Institute of Plantation and Commodities (IMPAC), successfully organised a workshop entitled Consultation Workshop with Industry and Stakeholders for the Review of the National Occupational Skills Standard (NOSS) for Furniture Production Operation at Sama-Sama Hotel, KLIA.

The workshop brought together representatives from government agencies, the timber industry and training institutions as well as technical experts to exchange insights and provide strategic input on the review and enhancement of the NOSS framework to meet current and future industry requirements.

The workshop was officiated by Encik Saravana Kumar a/l Marimuthu, Secretary of the Division for Industrial Innovation and Human Capital Development (PIMI), Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK). Also present were Cik Nazatul Niza Nordin, Chief Executive Officer of IMPAC, and Ts. Muhamad Faizul Razilah, Director of the Wood Industry Skills Development Centre (WISDEC).



The workshop aimed to collect constructive feedback and recommendations from industry players, government bodies, and training institutions to ensure that the national skills standards remain relevant and responsive to industrial needs. It also sought to strengthen collaboration between the industry and training providers to nurture a competent and future-ready workforce for Malaysia's timber sector.

Several presentations were delivered at the workshop:

- Malaysian Skills Certification System in Resource-Based Industries (Wood Sector) by Ts. Mohd Shahrol @ Shukor Salleh, Department of Skills Development (JPK)
- Application of NOSS for Furniture Production: Implications and Improvements from the Industry Perspective by Tuan Haji Farosham Naizamohideen, Impressive Transform Sdn. Bhd.

Review of NOSS for Furniture Production Operations by Tc. Amri Mustaffa, MTIB

The sessions provided valuable insights into the current state of skills development within the furniture manufacturing industry. They also highlighted the need to align training standards with technological advancement and evolving industrial practices.

The workshop concluded with an engaging discussion session moderated by Ts. Norhasniza Mohd Rom, Senior Assistant Director of WISDEC. The session brought together all presenters and participants to actively exchange views and experiences on strengthening the NOSS framework for Furniture Production Operation. The discussions focused on key themes such as the integration of advanced manufacturing technologies, automation, green materials, and workplace safety, all aimed to ensure the skills framework remains relevant to Industry 4.0 practices. The participants also emphasised the importance of ongoing collaborations among stakeholders to bridge the gap between education and employment, enhance training quality, and strengthen industry readiness.

The workshop underscored a shared commitment towards developing a sustainable, innovative, and competitive workforce capable of driving the long-term growth of Malaysia's timber industry and supporting the nation's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) transformation agenda. The outcome of the workshop will serve as key input for the review of the NOSS for Furniture Production Operation, led by JPK with support of IMPAC as the Industry Lead Body (ILB) and in collaboration with MTIB through WISDEC.

The workshop was also an initiative reflecting the shared commitment among stakeholders to enhance Malaysia's TVET ecosystem. It underscored the nation's dedication towards ensuring the timber industry remains innovative, sustainable, and globally competitive through the continuous development of skilled human capital.





ASA Design Sdn. Bhd. – Your Partner in Precision CNC Cutting Solutions

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

At **ASA Design**, expertise goes far beyond precision cutting — it's about transforming raw materials into beautiful, functional creations that bring value to every project. The company's wide-ranging capabilities allow it to serve clients from different industries, ensuring that each solution is tailored to meet specific needs.

ASA Design Sdn. Bhd., established in 2009, has proudly served the industry for over 16 years. Operating from a modern facility in Nilai 3, Negeri Sembilan, ASA Design provides nationwide services in precision engineering — turning ideas into tangible results. From intricate architectural components to heavy-duty engineering parts, the company seamlessly integrates technology, expertise, and creativity to deliver exceptional quality that meets even the most demanding customer requirements.

Starting with a vision to combine craftsmanship with advanced technology, ASA Design has evolved into one of Malaysia's most competitive CNC specialists. The facility is equipped with dedicated Administration, Engineering, and Quality Assurance areas, ensuring smooth workflow and meticulous quality checks at every stage. Over the past 15 years, ASA Design has worked with clients from diverse industries — interior designers, architects, contractors, manufacturers, and event companies — making it a trusted name in both creative and industrial applications.

ASA Design is not only trusted locally but is also actively involved in both national and international exhibitions such as BuildXpo, Export Furniture Exhibition (EFE), Wood & Lifestyle Fair, and International Construction Week, showcasing Malaysian innovation on the global stage.

Among its most popular offerings are decorative grill panels and wave panels, widely used for luxury hotels, commercial spaces, and modern residences. These panels are not only structurally reliable but also add an artistic touch that enhances interior and exterior design concepts.

ASA Design also produces custom signage and branding solutions, including advertising boards, exhibition displays, and architectural artworks, helping businesses stand out with designs that combine creativity and durability. For residential and commercial projects, ASA Design fabricates house number plates, partitions, and custom furniture panels, turning everyday spaces into unique design statements.

The company's advanced CNC technology enables cutting across a wide range of materials — from mild steel and stainless steel to wood, acrylic, PVC, textiles, and composites. This flexibility allows ASA Design to work on diverse projects, including engineering components, acoustic solutions, and lifestyle products.

Throughout its years of operation, ASA Design has successfully undertaken numerous high-profile projects, such as:

- **Menara Felda (Office for the Prime Minister)** – Decorative screen fabrication



- **Universal Studios Singapore** – Fabrication of pre-signage and sculpture mould design



The company also specializes in the manufacturing and design of waveboards and grille panels, products that are highly sought after in the interior design community. In addition, ASA Design offers its own line of original design concepts, created to inspire and assist clients in enhancing both interior and exterior spaces for homes, offices, and commercial buildings.

Advanced CNC Technology for Every Application

What sets ASA Design apart is its wide range of CNC machinery that enables cutting across multiple materials and industries:

- **CNC Plasma Cutting Machine**

Handles mild steel, stainless steel, and aluminium up to 5' x 10', ideal for durable industrial and architectural applications

- **CNC Router**

Cuts wood, engineering plastics, acrylic, PVC, composite panels, MDF, alloys, copper, and more up to 6' x 10', perfect for furniture, decorative panels, and engineering components

- **CNC CO₂ Laser Cutting Machine**

Delivers fine, detailed cuts on acrylic, wood, and MDF up to 4' x 8', making it ideal for intricate signage and display elements

- **CNC Fiber Laser Cutting Machine**

Achieves high-precision cuts on mild steel and stainless steel up to 5' x 10', catering to both design and manufacturing needs

- **CNC Oscillating Machine**

Specializes in cutting acoustic formboards, carpets, and textiles up to 5' x 10', perfect for interior acoustics and creative soft-material designs

This range of equipment allows ASA Design to provide fully customised solutions — whether it's a one-off design or a large-scale production.

The company's vision for the future is firmly anchored in its motto — "Accuracy, Speed & Affordable." Guided by this principle, ASA Design remains dedicated to helping clients lower costs, boost productivity, and explore greater creative possibilities through innovative CNC solutions. As industries continue to evolve, the company actively invests in advanced technology, workforce training, and customer service, ensuring it sustains its position as a leader in Malaysia's CNC cutting industry. 



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Good Governance in the Malaysian Timber Industry

Prepared by: Puan Norzila Amir Rudin

Good governance in Malaysian timber industry requires strong, transparent and accountable institutions to ensure sustainable and legal forest management through stakeholder participation, clear regulations, effective law enforcement and equitable resource allocation.

This is vital to ensure long-term sustainability and to protect its reputation when competing in the highly competitive industry. Good governance can be done by fair practices among players by maintaining market competitiveness and promoting transparency to avert corruption. Therefore, core principles of a good governance in the timber industry should involve the following:

1 Legality and Sustainability

This would ensure that all timber harvesting, processing, and trading adhere to national and international laws, promoting sustainable forest management (SFM) and preventing illegal logging. The Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK) and the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) are committed to ensuring that locally produced timber products follow current laws and procedures in the forestry and timber sector such as Malaysia Timber Legality Assurance System (MyTLAS).

MyTLAS which is implemented in Peninsular Malaysia, certifies timber products that are harvested and processed in compliance with Malaysian laws and regulations and is also a comprehensive control procedure to ensure the exclusion of unverified timber.

2 Participation

All stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, indigenous peoples and civil society organisations, should cooperate in forest and timber-related decision-making processes. Good governance leads to more equitable and sustainable management of timber resources, ensuring that benefits are shared and environmental impacts are minimised.

3 Transparency

Transparency is the core principle of good timber and forest governance, acting as a foundation for other key principles like accountability, fairness, and participation. It ensures that information on forestry policies, resource allocation, and business operations is accessible to all stakeholders, strengthening credibility and reducing corruption. A lack of transparency can allow powerful groups to illegally profit from the timber trade by concealing illicit logging concessions and avoiding fees and taxes. This makes illegal activities much more difficult to hide.

4 Accountability and Equity

Accountability and equity in the timber industry's good governance are achieved through mechanisms like transparent decision-making, strong stakeholder participation, and fair distribution of benefits and burdens. This is to ensure the timber operations are well-managed and balances environmental protection with the needs of local communities and indigenous peoples.

One of the ways to ensure good governance, is to establish a strategic plan. MTIB, through its Organisation Anticorruption Plan (OACP) 2022-2027 aims to manage governance, integrity, and corruption risks proactively, turning a potential liability into a source of stability and trust. The plan targets key priority areas that are exposed to high risk of governance, integrity and corruption offences.

In conclusion, good governance is fundamental in ensuring that Malaysia's timber industry continues to thrive without compromising environmental integrity. The principles of transparency, accountability, participation, rule of law, and sustainability form the fundamental backbone of an effective governance.





Malaysia's export of timber and timber products declined by 7% in September 2025, registering at RM1.7 billion compared to RM1.9 billion in August 2025. The weaker monthly performance was largely influenced by declines across several key product categories, including mouldings, chipboard/particleboard, fibreboard and builders' joinery and carpentry products. Cumulative exports for January–September 2025 amounted to RM16.2 billion, a 5% decrease from RM17.1 billion recorded in the same period in 2024. The year-to-date contraction was driven primarily by lower exports of plywood, fibreboard, veneer and chipboard/particleboard. Wooden furniture also recorded a 4% decline to RM6.9 billion. In contrast, builders' joinery and carpentry products grew 7% to RM1.1 billion, while sawntimber posted a slight increase of 1% to RM1.6 billion, helping to partially offset the overall downturn.

According to Fortune Business Insights, the global wood and timber products market size was valued at USD 1.05 billion in 2025. The market is projected to grow from USD 1.1 billion in 2026 to USD 1.6 billion by 2034, exhibiting a CAGR of 4.76% during the forecast period. The global wood and timber products market is currently experiencing phenomenal growth fuelled mainly by the increasing needs of market demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly building materials. Most areas for timber products use construction, furniture, and interior design, where durability and aesthetic value are required in most industries. Wood and timber products are major domain areas of development in sustainable construction, supporting an increasing global trend for green materials.



SAWNTIMBER

Total sawntimber exports in September 2025 increased by 13% in volume but declined by 14% in value compared to the previous month. Exports totalled at 168,445 m³ worth RM176.8 million, up from 149,542 m³ but decreased by 4% from RM204.9 million recorded in August 2025. Cumulative exports for January–September 2025 amounted to 989,001 m³ valued at RM1.6 billion, reflecting a 34% increase in volume and 1% increase in value compared to the same period in 2024 (738,664 m³ valued at RM1.6 billion).

In the European Union, exports increased significantly by 122% to 75,953 m³ in September 2025 compared to 34,264 m³ in from the last month. However, Greece saw a massive decline of 98% to 634 m³ compared to 30,228 m³ from August. Meanwhile, imports by the Netherlands fell 28% to 1,101 m³ from 1,540 m³ and Belgium rose 71% to 793 m³ from 465 m³ in August. Exports to other parts of Europe fell by 11% to 775 m³, all of which went to the United Kingdom.

In South Asia, shipments rose by 17% to 18,974 m³ from 16,252 m³ last month. This was led by the Maldives, which increased imports by 173% to 9,871 m³ from 3,614 m³ in August. India recorded a decline of 32% to 4,863 m³, while Sri Lanka fell 26% to 2,875 m³.

Exports to West Asia fell by 30% to 11,927 m³ from 17,074 m³ in the last period. Market performance was mixed, with the UAE seeing a decline of 54% to 3,060 m³ while Iraq fell by 61% to 273 m³. Saudi Arabia's imports surged by 78% to 1,214 m³.



In East Asia, shipments contracted by 19% to 35,954 m³ from 44,281 m³ last month. Japan saw a drop of 32% to 1,882 m³, and Taiwan fell sharply by 88% to 987 m³. However, China saw a marginal increase of 3% to 32,365 m³ from 31,414 m³ last corresponding period. Shipments to ASEAN markets fell 38% to 20,175 m³ from 32,454 m³ last month. Key members states saw declines; the Philippines and Thailand fell 50% and 24% to 9,822 m³ and 24% to 3,964 m³ respectively while intake from Singapore declined by 13% to 5,514 m³ for the month.

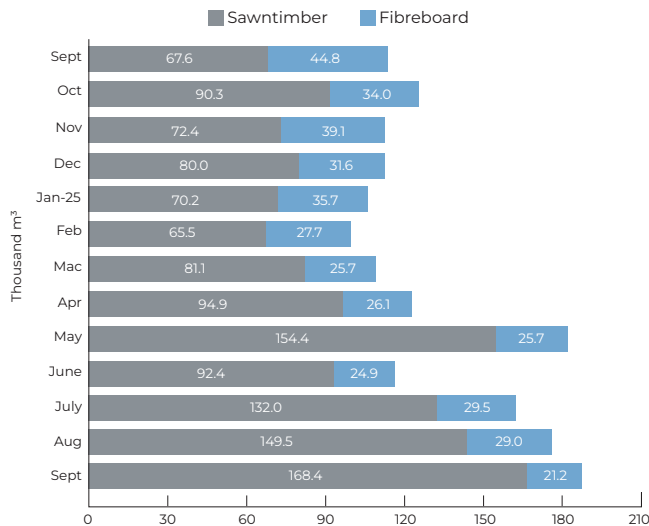


Exports to Africa grew 14% to 1,954 m³ from 1,712 m³ last month. This was led by Mauritius, which increased intake by 139% to 310 m³, followed by South Africa, up 6% to 1,644 m³ from 1,547 m³. Meanwhile, exports to North America fell 34% to 1,696 m³, with the United States accounting for 1,521 m³, recording a decline of 35% from the last period.

Exports to Oceania/Pacific rose 14% to 995 m³ from 873 m³ in August. The majority was shipped to Australia, which decreased imports by 3% to 847 m³. New Zealand resume imports with 122 m³ for the month.

The average FOB price for sawntimber in September 2025 was recorded at RM1,049 per m³, a 23% drop from RM1,370 per m³ in August 2025. The average price for Dark Red Meranti (DRM) exports were up by 142% to 2,340 m³ from 968 m³ in August. Keruing exports rose by 1% to 2,676 m³, while the average price for DRM to the Netherlands grew by 9% to 3,615 m³. No trade was recorded for Redwood (UAE) from August 2025.

Malaysia: Export of Sawntimber and MDF



The US hardwood sawmilling sector is experiencing accelerating permanent closures as prolonged trade disputes, weakened export markets and growing competition from cheaper synthetic wood alternatives erode profitability. Export declines - driven by retaliatory tariffs since 2018 and further exacerbated by new duties introduced in September 2025 - have left many mills, especially in the Southeast and Midwest, operating below capacity or shutting down. Domestic demand has been unable to offset lost export volume, while expanding retail preference for vinyl and composite “wood-look” products continues to displace traditional hardwood. The downturn is rippling through the broader supply chain, affecting log suppliers, equipment dealers and local economies, contributing to uncertainty about the industry’s near-term outlook.



PLYWOOD

Exports of plywood in September 2025 recorded an increase of 9% in volume to 90,737 m³ and an 8% rise in value to RM189.7 million compared to the previous month. Cumulative exports for January–September 2025 showed a 0.3% decrease in volume to 831,255 m³ and 8% decline in value, totalling at RM1.7 billion, compared to the corresponding period in 2024. The EU region continued to register a downward trend, with exports falling by 23% from 6,347 m³ to 4,869 m³. However, Italy and Belgium increased their purchases by five thousand fold to 2,275 m³ and 128% to 665 m³, respectively. In other parts of Europe, exports increased by 50% to 7,559 m³ from 5,027 m³ in August, with the UK and Türkiye raising their imports by 39% to 4,170 m³ and 68% to 3,389 m³, respectively.

In the East Asia market, exports improved by 31% to 61,945 m³ from 47,254 m³ in August. Japan, the largest importer from the region, increased its purchases by 29% to 53,433 m³, followed by South Korea with a 75% rise to 3,291 m³ and

Taiwan with a 3% increase to 3,906 m³. Meanwhile, exports to the ASEAN region declined by 39%, from 3,148 m³ to 1,924 m³. Shipments to Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore fell by 33% to 543 m³, 62% to 194 m³, and 34% to 1,028 m³, respectively.

In South Asia, plywood exports decreased by 50%, from 447 m³ to 222 m³. India, however, increased its imports by 290% to 156 m³, while the Maldives reduced its purchases by 83% to 66 m³. Pakistan made no purchases during the month. West Asia also recorded a decline of 72%, falling from 4,804 m³ to 1,342 m³. Yemen reduced its imports by 79% to 829 m³, while Jordan resumed purchases at 361 m³. The UAE made no purchases during the month.



In Africa, plywood exports dropped by 54%, from 83 m³ to 38 m³, with South Africa being the sole buyer. Mauritius made no purchases. North America recorded a 20% decline from 14,544 m³ to 11,697 m³. The USA reduced its imports by 24% to 11,031 m³, while Canada decreased its intake by 58% to 42 m³. Mexico, meanwhile, resumed purchases at 624 m³. In the Oceania/Pacific region, exports declined by 42%, from 1,955 m³ to 1,143 m³, with Australia being the only importer.



The FOB price for plywood in September 2025 stood at RM2,091 per m³, a 1% decrease from RM2,107 per m³ in the previous month.

Hokkaido authorities have approved the conversion of farmland in Kutchan Town to construct a large shared housing complex for around 1,200 foreign workers in the Niseko resort area, one of the world’s top ski destinations. The prefectural government confirmed that the developer’s plan complies with legal and environmental standards, with minimal impact on nearby farmland. The town expects the complex to accommodate up to 1,200 foreign workers, primarily employed at local resorts during the winter season—equivalent to nearly 10% of Kutchan’s population of 14,000 as of August.



VENEER

Export of veneer in September 2025 decreased by 5% to 1,811 m³, but increased by 24% in value to RM5.07 million as compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative exports for January–September 2025 showed a decrease in both volume and value by 50% to 20,653 m³ and 48% to RM42.9 million over the previous corresponding period.

ASEAN recorded a sharp increase in veneer imports by 1,611%, from 9 m³ to 154 m³. Singapore increased its purchases by 233% to 30 m³, while Viet Nam resumed buying with 28 m³. In East Asia, exports decreased by 60%, from 1,203 m³ to 481 m³. Japan increased its veneer imports by 10% to 164 m³, while China reduced its buying by 37% to 149 m³ and South Korea decreased imports by 49% to 168 m³.

South Asia recorded a significant improvement, with imports increasing by 255%, from 265 m³ to 940 m³. Veneer purchases by India rose 508% to 808 m³, while Bangladesh maintained its purchase at 132 m³ for September 2025.

Moving to North America, veneer imports decreased by 79%, from 376 m³ to 81 m³. The USA and Canada reduced their buying by 27% to 46 m³ and 89% to 35 m³, respectively. The Oceania/Pacific region resumed imports with 119 m³, contributed entirely by Australia, while the EU and Africa made no purchases for the month.

The average FOB price for veneer increased by 30%, from RM2,148 per m³ to RM2,799 per m³ compared to the previous month.

The Indian Laminate Manufacturers Association (ILMA) has advised reviewing laminate prices due to rising formaldehyde costs driven by high methanol prices. In a notice to its members, ILMA stated that the volatility in formaldehyde supply and frequent market fluctuations require maintaining a disciplined payment cycle to ensure industry stability. ILMA emphasised the need for strict credit control measures and formal MOUs with buyers to define and agree on trade terms. According to industry reports, many laminate producers are announcing immediate price hikes for 0.72 mm and 0.8 mm laminate thicknesses.



MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in September 2025 recorded a 27% decrease in volume at 21,174 m³ and a 31% decrease in value at RM37.2 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, the cumulative export for the period of January–September 2025 also recorded a decrease in volume by 20% to 245,337 m³ and a decrease in value by 20% totalling at RM456.2 million as compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

MDF export to ASEAN decreased by 21% from 4,771 m³ to 3,750 m³ in September 2025. The Philippines and Viet Nam reduced their imports by 16% to 1,963 m³ and 65% to 410 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia increased its imports slightly by 0.2% from 706 m³ to 708 m³ for the month.

Elsewhere, purchases from East Asia decreased by 14% from 11,197 m³ to 9,675 m³. Imports from Japan and Taiwan declined by 39% to 6,393 m³ and 5% to 705 m³ respectively. South Korea, however, recorded a 2,820% surge in imports to 292 m³. Moving to the South Asia market, exports decreased by 1% from 3,261 m³ to 3,223 m³. Export performance to India and Pakistan declined by 21% to 427 m³ and 12% to 1,744 m³ respectively, while Nepal made no purchases for the month.

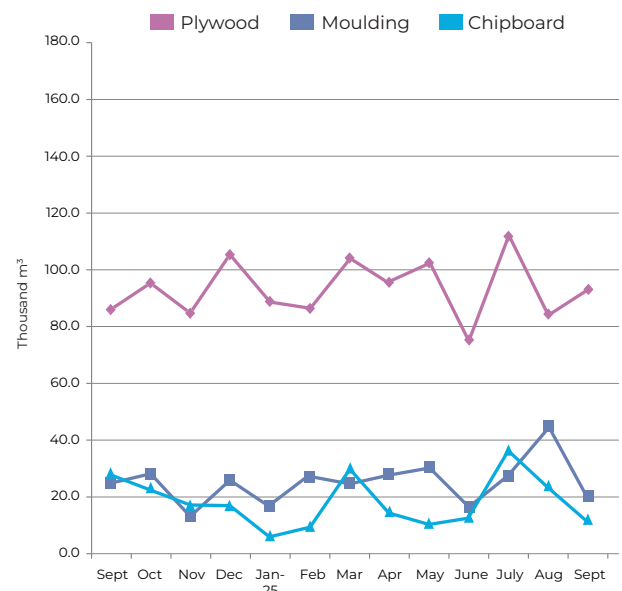
Exports to the West Asia region recorded a significant decrease of 83% from 6,224 m³ to 1,056 m³. The UAE and Oman reduced their orders by 67% to 204 m³ and 79% to 520 m³ respectively. Countries in the Europe, Central America,

and South America regions did not make any purchases of Malaysian MDF during the month.

Exports to the Oceania/Pacific region recorded an increase of 40% from 1,259 m³ to 1,767 m³. Australia increased its purchase by 46% to 1,744 m³, while New Zealand reduced its imports by 65% to 23 m³. MDF imports by North America showed a decrease of 22% from 2,139 m³ to 1,677 m³. Purchases by the USA, Canada and Mexico decreased by 21% to 1,167 m³, 16% to 388 m³ and 41% to 121 m³ respectively. In the Africa region, MDF purchases decreased by 80% to 26 m³, with imports coming solely from South Africa, while Mauritius made no purchases for the month.

The average FOB price of MDF decreased by 5% to RM1,755 per m³ from RM1,848 per m³ compared to the previous month.

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



Australia's construction sector is experiencing steady but sustainability-driven growth, with timber emerging as a central feature of the industry's future direction. High-rise innovation, including proposals like Sydney's "Halo" hybrid timber tower, alongside global benchmarks such as the Ascent Tower, demonstrates the feasibility of tall timber structures and encourages broader market acceptance. Mass timber materials, particularly CLT and glulam, are increasingly integrated into hybrid designs to reduce emissions while meeting strict performance and safety standards. Institutional development—such as the University of Newcastle's upcoming mass timber building for its Central Coast Campus—reflects expanding adoption in the education sector. Strong government support, particularly through the AU\$300 million CEFC Timber Building Program, is reinforcing the shift toward low-carbon construction solutions. Overall, the national outlook for 2025 points to modest yet stable growth as the industry adjusts to economic stabilisation and deepens its commitment to sustainable, climate-aligned building practices.



MOULDINGS

The export of mouldings in September 2025 decreased by 54% in volume, at 20,048 m³, and similarly, decreased by 14% in value, at RM66.3 million compared with August 2025. For the cumulative period from January to September 2025, exports of mouldings dropped in volume and value by 3% to 0.2 million m³ and by 5%, worth RM677.0 million from RM709.3 million in the same period of 2024.

Exports to ASEAN countries decreased by 36% to 652 m³ in September 2025, down from 1,015 m³ in August 2025. Exports to Singapore declined by 32% to 581 m³ while exports to Viet Nam dropped by 24% to 71 m³ from the previous month.

In the East Asia region, exports of mouldings were recorded at 1,317 m³ in September 2025, a decrease of 15% from 1,544 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Japan and Hong Kong decreased by 25% to 582 m³ and 52% to 30 m³, respectively. Meanwhile, exports to South Korea increased by 11% to 482 m³ from 434 m³ in August 2025 which finally increased (corrected from June 2025).

In the South Asia region, export volume showed a downward trend, declining by 34% to 201 m³ in September 2025 compared to the previous month. Exports to Maldives decreased by 53% to 134 m³, while India resumed its intake with 67 m³.



Exports to the EU showed a downward trend, decreasing by 23% to 4,099 m³ in September 2025 compared with 5,330 m³ in August 2025. Exports to the Netherlands were recorded at 1,955 m³, a decrease of 29% from 2,771 m³ in August 2025. Similarly, exports to France and Belgium dropped by 21% to 662 m³ and by 18% to 183 m³, respectively. Meanwhile, intake from the UK declined by 9% to 289 m³ for the month.



In the Oceania and Pacific region, exports of mouldings to Australia dropped by 17% to 1,322 m³ for the month compared to 1,600 m³ in the previous month.

Meanwhile, in North America, total demand declined by 64% to 11,850 m³ in September 2025 compared to the previous month. Exports to the USA dropped by 12% to 11,251 m³, while exports to Canada dropped by 99% to 301 m³ from 19,823 m³ in August 2025.

In the Africa region, total exports decreased by 37% to 293 m³ compared to 466 m³ in August 2025. Exports to Mauritius dropped by 39% to 170 m³, and purchases from South Africa also declined by 35% to 123 m³ for the month.

The average FOB unit value for mouldings in September 2025 increased by 85% to RM3,308 per m³ compared to RM1,786 per m³ in August 2025.

Global Wood Market Info reported that expectations for the European timber industry in 2026 centre on gradual stabilisation rather than strong growth, following two years of volatility marked by weak demand, high costs and disrupted raw-material supply. Market participants anticipate a slow recovery beginning in late 2025 and continuing through 2026, supported mainly by improving construction conditions within Europe. Roundwood markets have cooled, with log prices easing from the exceptionally high levels seen in 2023–2024 as energy markets stabilised and procurement normalised. However, costs remain structurally higher than before the pandemic due to labour, transport, environmental compliance and financing expenses. As a result, margins are expected to remain under pressure even if prices soften further.

The key driver of demand remains construction activity. Housing starts have been weak across Europe due to high interest rates, but easing monetary policy from 2025 is expected to support a moderate recovery in residential construction and renovation activity in 2026. This should lead to a cautious uplift in softwood lumber demand, particularly in core markets such as Germany, France, the Benelux countries, the UK and the Nordics. A structural reduction in log availability in Central Europe is supporting prices and sustaining demand for Nordic and Baltic softwood, even as overall construction activity recovers slowly. Spruce lumber prices have therefore proven more resilient than other grades.



BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

The total export of builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC) in September 2025 decreased by 17% in volume to 11.9 million kg and by 20% in value to RM103.0 million. However for the cumulative period of January – September 2025, export of BJC increased by 12% in volume to 115.4 million kg and 7% in value to RM1.1 billion as compared to the previous corresponding period 2024.

Shipments of BJC to ASEAN are valued at RM65.5 million, a decrease of 37% from RM103.8 million in the same corresponding period in 2024. Singapore as the main buyer decreased its buying by 54%, valued at RM35.2 million as compared to the previous year. Similarly, there has been a cutback on export to Viet Nam by 15% at RM8.2 million. However, export to Thailand increased by 22% at RM13.5 million for the period of January to September 2025.

In the East Asia region, exports decreased by 13% from RM68.1 million to RM59.6 million in the September 2025 period. Japan, despite being the main buyer from this region, dropped its buying by 11% to RM42.8 million from RM47.9 million over the same corresponding period. Similarly, exports to China and Taiwan also declined by 29% at RM6.9 million and by 39% at RM4.1 million, respectively.

Exports to South Asia totalled at RM18.3 million, a decrease of 43% from RM32.3 million in the corresponding period in 2024. Both India and Maldives decreased their imports by 38% amounting to RM12.4 million and by 36% worth RM3.0 million, respectively. Similarly, Bangladesh dropped its purchases by 81% from RM2.2 million to RM0.4 million in the period of January – September 2025.

As for the West Asia region, the total export of BJC grew significantly by 197%, totalling at RM11.6 million as compared to RM3.9 million from the previous year. The main buyer from this region was Saudi Arabia with a total purchase of RM10.1 million, while demand from Kuwait dropped by 84% worth RM96,119 for the stated period. Similarly, export to the UAE dropped by 45% to RM1.30 million from RM2.33 million in the period of January – September 2024.



The total export of BJC to the European Union rose by 10%, from RM186.8 million to RM205.1 million in the last year period.

Intake from Belgium increased by 32% worth RM75.1 million, followed by the Netherlands, where export improved by 3% worth RM66.9 million. However, intake from France dropped by 16% to RM12.2 million for the stated period. Meanwhile, exports to other parts of Europe declined by 12% at a total of RM105.4 million. The United Kingdom decreased its intake by 7% worth RM100.8 million. Norway and Türkiye also dropped imports by 63% to RM3.9 million and by 19% to RM0.7 million, respectively.



Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific region decreased by 6% to RM174.5 million in the period of January – September 2025. Australia, the main buyer, reduced its purchases by 5% with a total value of RM158.6 million from RM167.7 million in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, New Zealand lowered its intake by 16% worth RM12.5 million, while export to Tonga increased by 0.5% to RM0.593 million for the stated period.

Shipment to North America increased by 48%, amounting to RM408.1 million, whereas the USA, the main buyer from this region, increased its purchases by 50% at a total value of RM403.8 million. However, intake from Canada dropped by 36% to RM3.6 million.

Likewise, shipments to Africa decreased by 31% to RM5.9 million in the period of January – September 2025. There was also a decrease in the exports of BJC to South Africa at 28%, from RM4.5 million to RM3.3 million compared to the last period. Similarly, Mauritius dropped its purchase by 63% to RM0.67 million, while Morocco increased its intake by 619% to RM0.88 million for the cumulative period of January – September 2025.

UK's construction is forecast to return to modest growth from 2026 onwards, with housing leading the recovery and timber playing an increasingly important role as a sustainable, fast-build solution. However, forecasts from Glenigan's Construction Industry Forecast 2025–2027 and the Construction Products Association's (CPA) Summer 2025 Forecast states that this recovery is fragile and highly dependent on economic stability, government policy delivery, and easing cost pressures. Both forecasts agree

that while growth is achievable, uncertainty remains the dominant theme. Risks include high interest rates, fiscal tightening, labour shortages, planning delays, rising material costs, and potential changes in political priorities. Confidence in the sector is therefore cautious rather than robust.

Private housing is expected to show the strongest growth, driven by lower interest rates and gradual improvements in household finances. Glenigan projects private housing starts to grow significantly through 2027, while the CPA forecasts steady increases in completions. However, delivery is constrained by planning bottlenecks, the regulatory burden of the Building Safety Act, and inconsistent implementation of government housing programmes. Timber, already used in around 30% of UK homes, is seen as crucial to scaling delivery through off-site and modular construction - provided the reforms translate into real-world progress. Social housing is also forecast to grow, supported by new funding commitments. Yet providers face stretched budgets as rising repair, maintenance, and retrofit demands compete with new-build activity. As a result, growth is expected to remain limited despite policy ambitions, particularly if planning reforms stall or local authority finances tighten further.

In commercial and industrial construction, forecasts point to a gradual recovery in offices, retail, and logistics as borrowing costs ease and investor interest returns. Demand is increasingly focused on high-quality, energy-efficient buildings, creating opportunities for timber in low-carbon construction. However, investment remains sensitive to regulatory certainty and economic volatility. Infrastructure and civil engineering are projected to grow, supported by long-term commitments such as major water infrastructure investment. Nonetheless, the CPA warns that future political changes could disrupt funding priorities, posing risks to projects that indirectly support housing and commercial development.





FURNITURE

The total export value of wooden furniture in January–September 2025 recorded a cumulative value of RM6.9 billion, representing a decline of 4% compared with RM7.2 billion registered in the same period in 2024. This indicates a slight moderation in export performance for Malaysian wooden furniture in the first nine months of 2025.

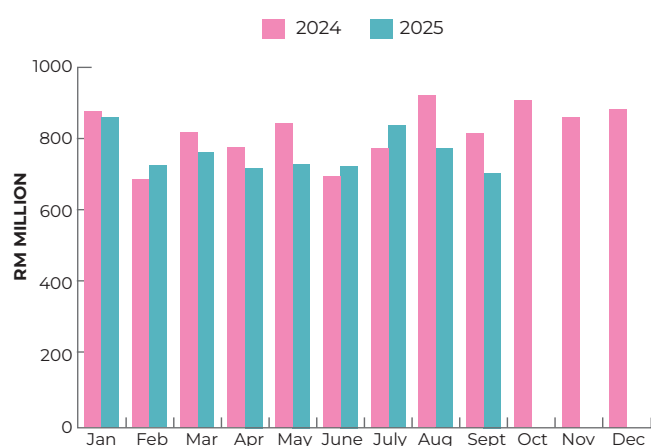
Shipments of wooden furniture to ASEAN were valued at RM860.7 million for the period of January–September 2025, a decline of 5% compared to RM903.9 million in the same period in 2024. Singapore remained the leading market with exports rising 7% to RM573.4 million, reflecting steady demand from the high-end furniture segment. However, exports to Indonesia fell by 34% while exports to Thailand increased by 3%, amounting to RM50.5 million and RM52.1 million, respectively.

Exports to East Asia contracted by 5% to RM398.9 million from RM419.2 million in the corresponding period of 2024. Japan continued to dominate as the main destination, increasing slightly by 1% to RM324.9 million, supported by consistent consumer demand. Meanwhile, exports to Taiwan and South Korea declined by 5% and 27%, reaching RM34.1 million and RM18.2 million, respectively.

In South Asia, exports decreased by 2% to RM121.2 million compared to RM124.2 million in 2024. India remained the major market in the region with exports rising by 2% to RM113.9 million. Exports to the Maldives and Sri Lanka fell sharply by 42% and 25%, amounting to RM5.3 million and RM1.2 million, respectively.

Shipments to Central Asia declined by 14% to RM2.7 million compared to RM3.1 million in the previous year. Kazakhstan remained the primary market, with exports slightly down by 2% to RM2.5 million, while Azerbaijan recorded new shipments worth RM0.15 million. Exports to Armenia fell significantly by 59% to RM0.07 million.

Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture



Note : Preliminary

In West Asia, total exports were valued at RM362.6 million, a decline of 6% from RM384.0 million in 2024. Saudi Arabia recorded an increase of 3% to RM133.7 million, while Oman imports grew by 4% to RM19.3 million, reflecting moderate demand from the Gulf markets. Meanwhile, exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) decreased by 17% to RM144.6 million.

Exports of Malaysian wooden furniture to the European Union were valued at RM244.0 million in January–September 2025, a decline of 17% compared to RM294.3 million in the same period in 2024. Germany and Belgium remained the major markets in the region, with exports falling by 3% and 8% to RM33.7 million and RM27.2 million, respectively.

In other parts of Europe, total shipments decreased by 8% to RM352.1 million from RM381.7 million in the same period in 2024. The United Kingdom continued to be the dominant destination despite recording a decline of 5% at RM329.5 million. Exports to Georgia and Türkiye fell by 10% and 52%, amounting to RM7.6 million and RM5.9 million, respectively.

In Oceania and the Pacific, total export declined by 18% to RM358.6 million from RM435.0 million in the corresponding period in 2024. Australia remained the leading market despite shipments falling by 17% to RM314.4 million, while New Zealand and Fiji recorded declining trends of 4% and 6%, amounting to RM27.2 million and RM5.4 million, respectively.

Exports to Central America fell sharply by 34% to RM28.9 million compared with RM43.6 million in 2024. Panama remained the key market, declining by 8% to RM11.6 million, followed by Guatemala and El Salvador, with imports down by 22% and 29% to RM6.2 million and RM6.0 million, respectively.

Shipments to North America remained stable at RM4.03 billion, a slight increase of 0.4% compared to RM4.02 billion in 2024. Imports to the United States, the major buyer rose marginally by 1% to RM3.61 billion. Exports to Canada declined by 2.4% to RM306.5 million, while shipments to Puerto Rico grew significantly by 43% to RM62.6 million.

In South America, exports fell by 24% to RM64.7 million from RM84.7 million in the previous year. Chile and Peru experienced sharp declines of 34% and 34% respectively, valued at RM31.1 million and RM10.1 million. Meanwhile, exports to Venezuela increased substantially by 108% to RM6.4 million.

Exports to Africa decreased by 8% to RM111.7 million compared to RM120.8 million in 2024. South Africa, Réunion Islands, and Kenya recorded declines of 10%, 12%, and 15%, totalling at RM34.7 million, RM9.8 million, and RM9.2 million, respectively.

The total export value of Malaysian rattan furniture for the period of January–September 2025 amounted to RM716,779, representing a significant decline of 53% compared with RM1.5 million recorded in the same period of 2024. This sharp decrease reflects a slowdown in global demand for rattan furniture, which may be influenced by changing consumer preferences and increased competition from alternative furniture materials.

Exports of Malaysian rattan furniture to ASEAN totalled at RM524,798 for January–September 2025, a decline of 55% compared to RM1.2 million in the same period in 2024. Singapore remained a key market but experienced a sharp drop of 73% to RM216,928. In contrast, exports to Thailand increased by 12% to RM190,223, while shipments to Indonesia fell drastically by 88% to RM5,064. For the Central Asia region, there were no exports recorded in January–September 2025.

Shipments to East Asia rose substantially by 89% to RM26,448 from RM13,997 in the same period in 2024. Japan resumed its intake with exports valued at RM5,798. However, no exports to Hong Kong and China were recorded for the stated period.

In South Asia, exports decreased by 45% to RM13,704, with India being the sole market in the region. Exports to West Asia grew by 45.9% to RM7,805, driven entirely by shipments to the UAE. Iraq and Qatar recorded no imports during the period.

In the European Union, exports decreased by 12% to RM3,505. Germany, Spain and France made no imports for the period and remained non-recipients. In other parts of Europe, total export amounted to RM1,751 with all intake being from Switzerland. The United Kingdom and Russia recorded no shipments during the period.

In Oceania and the Pacific, exports of Malaysian rattan furniture declined sharply by 57% to RM138,688 compared to RM318,976 in the same period in 2024. Australia remained

the primary market despite recording a drop of 55% to RM138,665, while there were no exports recorded to New Zealand and Western Samoa.

Likewise, there were no exports recorded to Central America, South America and Africa during January–September 2025. Exports to North America were minimal, valued at RM80, representing new shipments to the United States, while there were no exports to Canada and Puerto Rico.

According to Furniture Today, U.S. household furniture imports fell slightly in the first half of 2025, declining by about 3% compared to the same period in 2024, as uncertainties over new tariffs on wood and furniture imports prompted many buyers to defer or cancel orders, creating a more cautious market environment. Despite the overall slowdown, certain wooden furniture categories, including bedroom furniture, beds, and dining tables, recorded modest gains, driven by continued consumer demand for high-quality and durable pieces, while upholstery and other segments experienced single-digit declines. Notably, imports from Malaysia rose slightly during this period, reflecting sustained interest in Malaysian wood furniture for its quality, craftsmanship, and competitive pricing, and suggesting that some U.S. importers were strategically securing orders from trusted suppliers ahead of the full impact of the new tariff measures. This trend highlights how specific markets and reliable trade relationships can continue to perform positively even amid broader trade uncertainties and market volatility.




KEMENTERIAN PERLADANGAN
DAN KOMODITI


LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN
KAYU MALAYSIA



**KAYU
MALAYSIA**
Standing on Excellence

**A nature's blessing
that evokes
memories to last.**

Spain's SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OUTLOOK



OVERVIEW

Spain is a country located in Southwestern Europe. Its coastlines include the Bay of Biscay, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Northern Atlantic Ocean. Neighbouring countries include Andorra, France, Gibraltar, Portugal, and Morocco. The population of Spain increased by 105,488 during the third quarter of 2025, reaching a total of 49,442,844 inhabitants.

The Spanish economy expanded robustly by 3.2% in 2024, underpinned by a strong increase in consumption and a positive contribution from net external demand. This economic expansion continued into the first quarter of 2025, with GDP edging up by 0.6%, supported by investment and private consumption growth. Real GDP growth is expected to remain robust, reaching 2.6% in 2025, and is then projected to soften to 2.0% in 2026. Headline inflation is projected to ease to 1.9% in 2026. In terms of public finances, the general government deficit is set to decrease to 2.8% of GDP in 2025 and further to 2.5% in 2026.



Domestic demand is expected to remain the key driver of economic growth throughout the forecast period. This is largely sustained by continued strong labour market performance upholding private consumption growth and the projected pickup in investment, which is being supported by the continued implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) and a lower short-term interest rate environment.

Consumer spending is further upheld by moderating real wage gains and sustained inward migration leading to employment growth.

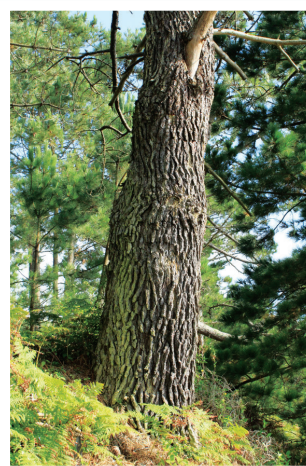
Conversely, the contribution from net exports is expected to be marginally negative in both 2025 and 2026. This is due to a less buoyant evolution of total exports combined with a recovery of import growth, amidst policy uncertainty surrounding global trade and tariffs that is set to weigh on private investment growth despite the Spanish economy's limited overall direct exposure to the US.



SPAIN FORESTRY AND TIMBER PRODUCTIONS

Forests cover roughly 55% of the land in Spain. According to the most recent National Forest Inventory (IFN) data, the most common tree species remain *Pinus pinaster*, *Pinus sylvestris*, and species of *eucalypts*. While these foundational census figures date back to 2012, they remain the most comprehensive official baseline for forest composition, supporting the robust timber production volumes recorded in the 2023 FAO statistics.

Forestry policy at the state level is integrated into the rural development framework of the relevant ministerial department, though practical management has been decentralised to the various Autonomous Communities at the regional level. The majority of Spain's active forestry is concentrated in the Northwest, as the Atlantic climate provides an ideal environment for the growth of primary commercial timber species. Consequently, wooden construction has a deep-rooted tradition in this region due to the abundance of raw materials and the suitability of the climate. This regional expertise in timber as a building material was recognised as early as the late 1920s, when Commandante Miguel Manos García conducted a pioneering study on the viability of prefabricated wooden housing in Northwestern Spain.



Maritime Pine in the A basa, Xaviña, Galicia, Spain
Sources: Monumental trees

Recent data from FAO STATS highlights a robust increase in Spain's timber production, particularly in the coniferous sector. In 2023, the production of coniferous sawlogs and veneer logs surged to 6,275,040 m³, nearly doubling the output from 2022. Similarly, coniferous sawnwood production reached 3,005,888 m³, while particle board output remained a significant component of the industry at 2,797,016 m³. Furthermore, the output of wood chips and particles contributed approximately 2,755,292 m³ to the supply chain, while fibreboard production accounted for 1,334,153 m³. This industrial capacity directly supports the Spain Prefab Wood Buildings Market, which is projected to achieve a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of over 5.38% through 2030. This growth is fuelled by a rising national demand for sustainable housing and a pressing requirement for approximately 600,000 new homes by 2025. Supported by a January 2025 government initiative providing EUR 6 billion in credits, the industry is increasingly adopting technologies like Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) and Building Information Modeling (BIM) to modernise construction and address housing deficits.



Eco-passive house in Spain exposing its wooden frame with natural stone elements
Source: www.designboom.com

SPAIN: TIMBER PRODUCTIONS (2019 – 2023)

Products	Unit	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sawlogs and veneer logs, coniferous	m ³	4,461,755	3,150,428	3,354,858	3,420,285	6,275,040
Sawnwood, coniferous	m ³	2,540,152	1,812,737	1,817,730	3,005,888	3,005,888
Particle board	m ³	1,898,712	1,783,054	2,797,567	2,566,383	2,797,016
Wood chips and particles	m ³	1,698,989	1,835,771	1,962,391	2,760,684	2,755,292
Medium/high density fibreboard (MDF/HDF)	m ³	1,540,000	1,448,000	1,448,000	1,334,153	1,334,153
Wood fuel, coniferous	m ³	482,948	688,584	2,366,540	2,243,054	755,708
Other industrial roundwood, coniferous (production)	m ³	92,231	196,845	176,257	260,638	244,300
Wood charcoal	t	60,252	81,065	60,297	97,291	97,291
Other fibreboard	m ³	56,818	55,151	67,726	64,252	64,252
Veneer sheets	m ³	91,034	68,747	62,192	40,049	40,049
Oriented strand board (OSB)	m ³	1,288	1,946	2,433	2,984	2,984

Source: FAO STATS



SPAIN'S TIMBER TRADE

Spain's timber and timber product exports, including furniture, amounted to USD4.97 billion in 2024, representing a 3% decline compared to USD5.12 billion in 2023. This marked the second year of moderation following a peak in 2022, when exports reached USD5.19 billion. Despite the recent softening, Spain's timber sector continues to demonstrate a strong export base, underpinned by diversified product offerings and a significant share of value-added products.

Furniture and parts thereof remained Spain's leading export category in 2024, generating USD1.89 billion and accounting for approximately 38% of total timber exports. Within this segment, seats and parts thereof contributed USD966.0 million, reflecting sustained demand from residential, commercial, and hospitality markets. Wooden furniture exports remained broadly stable year-on-year, easing slightly from the 2023 level but remaining well above pre-pandemic values.

Other major export products included fibreboard at USD385.4 million, chipboard/particle board at USD305.6 million, and plywood at USD266.1 million. Builders' joinery and carpentry products recorded exports of USD206.2 million, continuing an upward trend supported by construction and renovation activities. Log exports stood at USD184.8 million, indicating continued raw material exports alongside domestic processing.

While most product segments remained relatively stable, some categories experienced adjustments in line with global market conditions. Fuel wood, sawntimber, and plywood recorded a declining trend compared to earlier peaks, reflecting easing energy-related demand and competitive pressures. In contrast, casks, barrels, vats and tubs increased to USD170.2 million, supported by demand from the wine and spirits industry.



Overall, Spain's timber export trend reflects a maturing and value-added-oriented market. Although growth has moderated since 2022, the sector remains resilient, with continued reliance on furniture, engineered wood panels, and processed wood products as its core export drivers.

SPAIN: EXPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS, 2020-2024

USD'000

Product label	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden Furniture	1,421,846	1,787,539	1,829,067	1,912,919	1,889,769
Seat and parts thereof	646,829	862,613	880,676	950,596	965,935
Fibreboard	306,884	423,206	486,027	399,989	385,414
Chipboard/Particleboard	185,849	280,952	311,788	289,024	305,600
Plywood	279,237	380,154	417,911	318,311	266,115
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	138,460	165,413	173,043	202,460	206,181
Logs	134,517	133,090	171,204	192,547	184,800
Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	91,998	131,008	144,756	165,001	170,228
Packing cases	86,787	108,245	118,348	119,227	114,289
Veneer	80,693	113,836	127,008	117,473	102,986
Fuel Wood	98,974	101,688	161,624	127,248	89,397
Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	52,259	72,366	71,604	70,086	78,366
Sawntimber	77,131	108,494	108,435	89,686	77,021
Mouldings	43,815	56,053	58,121	57,345	45,712
Wood Charcoal	23,046	17,910	28,992	23,566	21,958
Metalised wood or other densified wood	12,939	18,619	21,649	20,114	19,060
Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	12,827	16,749	29,118	22,310	18,832
Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	11,889	17,932	32,590	25,455	17,649
Wooden Frame	9,057	8,975	6,777	7,557	7,517
Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	4,040	5,113	5,306	5,636	5,470
Hoopwood, Split polis, Piles	1,477	1,553	1,885	1,496	1,566
Railway sleepers	1,547	2,673	1,391	629	369
Wood wool; Wood flour	18	104	88	54	34
TOTAL	3,722,119	4,814,285	5,187,408	5,118,729	4,974,268

Source: ITC Stats

Over the 2020–2024 period, Spain's exports of timber and timber products under HS Code 44 expanded steadily until reaching a high point in 2022, after which export values eased. In 2024, Spain recorded total exports of USD2.12 billion, down from USD2.26 billion in 2023, marking a continued adjustment following the 2022 peak of USD2.48 billion. This softening trend largely mirrors slower construction activity and more cautious purchasing behaviour across major importing markets.

In terms of market distribution, Portugal continued to dominate as Spain's primary export destination, absorbing US\$475.4 million worth of timber products in 2024. Although shipments declined marginally, Portugal remained a cornerstone market due to long-standing cross-border supply chains. France followed with exports of USD\$348.7 million, while deliveries to the United Kingdom amounted to USD\$229.7 million, both reflecting reduced demands compared to previous years. Outside Europe, the United States remained Spain's most significant overseas market, with exports reaching USD\$120.1 million. Germany and Morocco also featured prominently, recording US\$104.4 million and USD 95.1 million, respectively.

Several established European destinations, including Italy and the Netherlands, registered lower import values in 2024, due to increased competition and evolving sourcing strategies. Exports to Malaysia remained negligible at USD\$57,000, representing only a marginal share of Spain's overall HS Code 44 trade.



SPAIN: EXPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS BY COUNTRY (HS CODE 44), 2020-2024

USD'000

Rank	Countries	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Portugal	374,046	437,523	534,506	500,874	475,444
2	France	294,769	374,125	431,279	387,083	348,691
3	United Kingdom	145,966	233,456	312,787	249,002	229,746
4	United States of America	109,474	152,328	173,104	126,166	120,090
5	Germany	82,855	118,523	119,231	123,234	104,386
6	Morocco	69,533	86,418	97,027	84,625	95,146
7	Netherlands	76,281	104,292	102,477	93,776	83,187
8	Italy	68,513	93,263	118,552	103,135	80,985
9	Ireland	34,710	49,739	39,949	46,844	40,280
10	Peru	26,170	41,195	36,815	28,909	37,973
133	Malaysia	457	611	160	130	57
	Others	370,668	472,659	511,781	511,440	502,576
	TOTAL	1,653,443	2,164,133	2,477,665	2,255,214	12,118,565

Source: ITC Stats

*Malaysia ranked 133rd among 188 countries

SPAIN'S IMPORTS OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

Over the past five years, Spain's imports of timber and timber products expanded strongly from 2020 to 2022, before stabilising and adjusting slightly thereafter. Total imports increased from USD4.36 billion in 2020 to a peak of USD6.19 billion in 2022, followed by a modest decline to USD5.83 billion in 2023 and a recovery to USD6.01 billion in 2024. The fluctuations reflect a combination of factors, including increasing domestic demand, construction activity, and global economic conditions.

In 2024, Spain's imports remained heavily concentrated in value-added and semi-processed products. Seats and parts thereof were the largest import category at USD2.13 billion, followed by wooden furniture at USD1.82 billion. Together, these two categories accounted for approximately 65% of total timber imports, highlighting Spain's continued reliance on imported furniture and related components. Other significant import items included sawn timber (USD387.9 million), chipboard/particleboard (USD241.0 million), and fibreboard (USD205.8 million), reflecting steady demand from construction and manufacturing sectors.

Imports of builders' joinery and carpentry rose to USD209.4 million. Meanwhile, imports of plywood (USD105.4 million) and fuel wood (USD78.4 million) declined as compared to the 2023 performance.

SPAIN: IMPORT OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS, 2020-2024

USD'000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Seat and parts thereof	1,635,359	2,058,793	2,044,716	2,056,221	2,127,382
Wooden Furniture	1,280,857	1,732,100	1,814,162	1,693,869	1,815,936
Sawntimber	270,577	431,495	487,578	394,098	387,858
Chipboard/Particleboard	145,067	194,662	251,974	250,550	240,982
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	144,408	207,587	202,968	196,561	209,426
Fibreboard	160,664	217,193	259,794	215,546	205,839
Veneer	126,720	171,289	198,405	140,387	165,989
Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	116,773	126,152	149,373	137,996	139,589
Packing cases	70,220	88,359	114,684	128,364	123,182
Logs	60,435	82,050	97,549	108,516	107,175
Plywood	76,348	119,408	123,024	116,443	105,378
Fuel Wood	46,585	67,507	96,160	77,785	78,447
Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	53,157	56,214	61,268	76,901	68,971
Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	32,355	49,704	76,519	53,748	51,029
Mouldings	41,758	57,542	65,042	52,646	49,990
Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	29,532	46,290	51,126	37,017	40,126
Wooden Frame	19,983	29,098	28,082	24,787	30,125
Wood Charcoal	20,524	20,442	33,968	35,863	28,519
Hoopwood, Split polis, Piles	9,012	11,984	16,319	12,447	11,557
Metalised wood or other densified wood	8,268	8,622	10,283	8,088	9,600
Railway sleepers	4,602	9,371	7,268	9,032	4,571
Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	2,552	3,191	3,313	3,639	3,983
Wood wool; Wood flour	361	426	337	312	215
TOTAL	4,356,117	5,789,479	6,193,912	5,830,816	6,005,869

Source: ITC Stats

For imports of furniture (HS 9403) in 2024, China remained the largest supplier to Spain, with imports valued at USD614.7 million. This was followed by Morocco at USD398.9 million and Portugal at USD290.4 million, highlighting Spain's strong sourcing linkages with both Asian producers and neighbouring regional markets. Other major suppliers included Germany (USD123.6 million) and Italy (USD108.2 million).

Malaysia ranked 23rd among Spain's furniture suppliers in 2024, with imports amounting to USD4.8 million, a marginal share of Spain's total furniture imports. Overall, Spain's import of furniture and parts thereof reached USD2.13 billion in 2024 showing the heavily reliance on imports of furniture with trade deficit export Spain's furniture.

SPAIN: IMPORT OF FURNITURE & PART THEREOF 2020-2024

USD'000

Rank	Countries	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	China	416,038	709,114	658,329	480,914	614,691
2	Morocco	235,488	272,468	301,908	373,947	398,947
3	Portugal	242,131	201,418	195,596	282,414	290,382
4	Germany	152,012	164,367	132,583	128,910	123,601
5	Italy	77,444	111,130	115,922	122,070	108,176
6	Poland	54,532	75,392	90,617	106,744	95,790
7	Czech Republic	84,100	62,631	65,196	86,137	65,890
8	Hungary	53,447	57,162	66,428	71,772	64,630
9	France	51,655	67,242	72,820	81,718	63,480
10	Romania	71,041	93,323	94,394	85,827	62,941
23	Malaysia	2,011	2,425	2,656	3,568	4,756
	Others	195,455	242,115	248,270	232,199	234,097
	TOTAL	1,635,359	2,058,793	2,044,716	2,056,221	2,127,382

Source: ITC Stats/ UN Comtrade

*Malaysia ranked 23th from 127 countries



MALAYSIA'S EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO SPAIN

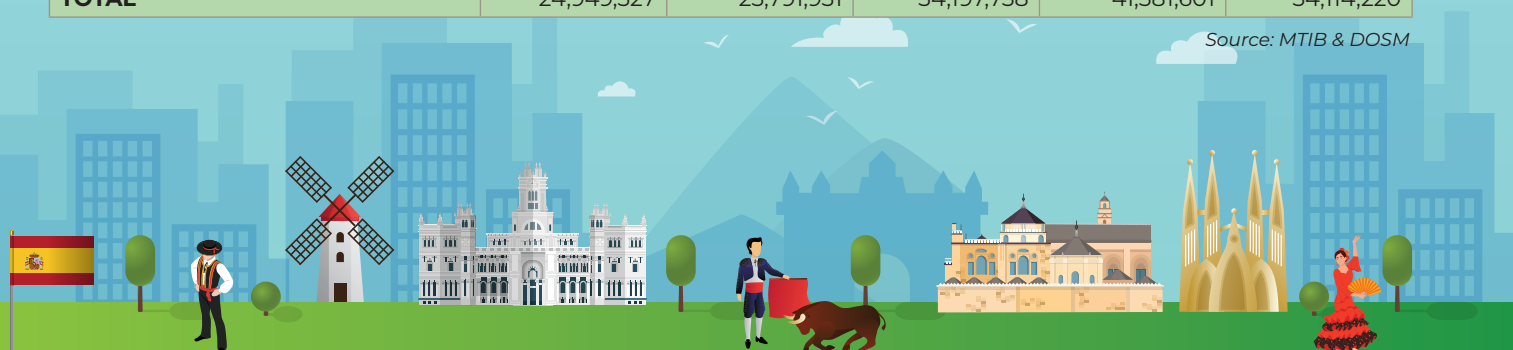
In 2024, Malaysia's export of timber and timber products to Spain increased to RM54.1 million, up from RM41.6 million in 2023, continuing the upward trend observed since 2021. The growth was primarily driven by a strong expansion in wooden furniture exports, which rose to RM44.0 million, accounting for the majority of Malaysia's timber exports to Spain. Other key export items included builders' joinery and carpentry at RM5.8 million, sawntimber at RM3.5 million, and mouldings at RM0.7 million. In 2024, Spain was the 50th market destination for Malaysian timber and furniture products.

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

Value: RM

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden Furniture	19,464,525	19,870,540	25,383,335	33,656,209	43,961,524
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	5,293,817	4,028,305	8,563,310	4,893,290	5,780,847
Sawntimber	0	0	0	1,490,653	3,510,681
Mouldings	191,185	53,654	63,680	404,172	706,802
Chipboard/Particleboard	0	0	0	921,874	0
Plywood	0	0	35,016	0	0
Other Products	0	1,839,432	152,417	215,403	154,366
TOTAL	24,949,527	25,791,931	34,197,758	41,581,601	54,114,220

Source: MTIB & DOSM





MALAYSIA'S IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM SPAIN

Malaysia's import of timber and furniture products from Spain recorded a decrease of 49%, from RM3.21 million in 2023 to RM1.63 million in 2024. Imports of veneer however, saw a growth, rising to RM406 thousand in 2024. Conversely, although wooden furniture remained the main export to Spain at RM529 thousand, it showed a decreasing trend compared to the previous year in 2024.

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

Value: RM

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden Furniture	366,975	1,341,694	869,177	729,601	528,940
Veneer	95,642	254,397	561,426	146,389	406,232
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	20,000	0	0	0	71,974
Sawntimber	42,297	573,084	467,212	154,441	615
Chipboard/Particleboard	1,533,185	1,468,999	102,514	0	0
Fibreboard	49,958	142,880	0	0	0
Other Products	122,639	93,074	388,512	2,175,651	623,851
TOTAL	2,230,696	3,874,128	2,388,841	3,206,082	1,631,612

Source: MTIB & DOSM



TARIFF RATES

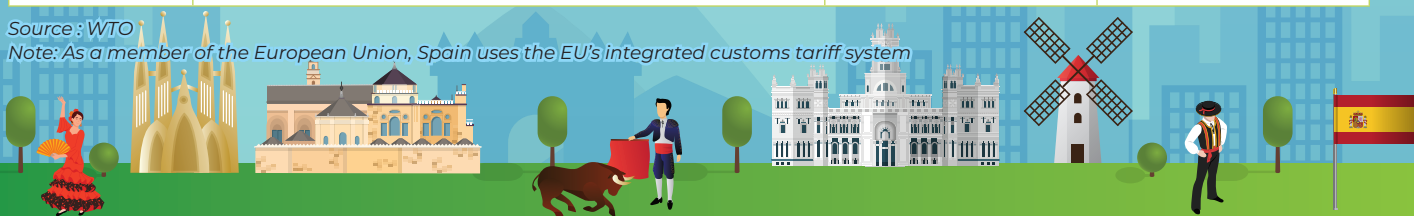
As a member of the European Union, Spain applies the EU's Common Customs Tariff. Under the EU Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) regime, import duties on timber and timber products generally range from 0% to 7%, with higher tariffs applying mainly to more processed products. Plywood (HS 4412) is subject to MFN duties of 1-10%, while fibreboard (HS 4411) and chipboard/particleboard (HS 4410) face duties of up to 7%. Meanwhile, builders' joinery and carpentry (HS 4418) are subject to duties of up to 3%, whereas logs (HS 4403), sawntimber (HS 4407), and mouldings (HS 4409) generally enter the EU at 0% MFN duty.

EUROPEAN UNION: TARIFF RATES UNDER MFN AND EU (2025)

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

Source: WTO

Note: As a member of the European Union, Spain uses the EU's integrated customs tariff system





STRATEGIC OUTLOOK: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Current Structural Challenges

The Spanish forestry sector is currently navigating a complex landscape of structural hurdles that stem from a highly fragmented ownership model. A significant portion of forest land is in private hands, often with a lack of definitive knowledge regarding property boundaries and legal structures, which severely complicates large-scale management and industrial exploitation. These internal weaknesses are exacerbated by low economic profitability in primary forestry activities and a chronic shortage of skilled labour. Jobs in this sector are frequently undervalued, perceived as dangerous, and primarily located in remote, underserved rural areas that lack modern infrastructure.

Furthermore, the industry faces severe external threats, most notably from the impacts of climate change, increasing desertification, and the rising frequency of devastating forest fires that endanger both forest ecosystems and human lives. The lack of centralised market information on forest products and the dispersion of administrative competencies across different regional governments create additional barriers to cohesive spatial planning and sector-wide growth.

The 2050 Vision and Circular Bioeconomy

To overcome these barriers, the Spanish Forest Strategy 2050 serves as a long-term vision to transform the sector into a cornerstone of the circular bioeconomy. This strategy aims to modernise the industry through total digitalisation and the enhancement of value chains, with the ambitious goal of increasing the forestry sector's contribution to at least 1% of Spain's national GDP by 2050.

Central to this vision is the promotion of sustainable timber as a low-carbon, renewable alternative to energy-intensive materials like steel and concrete in the construction sector. To ensure a stable supply for this "green" industrial shift, Spain has set a target to increase sustainable timber harvesting to no less than 50% of the annual forest growth. Additionally, the plan aims to ensure that at least half of all private forests are under a formal, active management plan to guarantee long-term resource security and carbon sink efficiency.



Eco-Passive house project located in the Valley of Puigpunyent in Majorca, Spain.
Source: designboom.com

Framework for Transition (2022–2032)

The Spanish Forest Plan 2022-2032 provides the tactical roadmap for this decade, outlining 289 specific measures aimed at addressing urgent industry needs. Nearly a third of these measures are prioritised to revitalise private property and streamline the regulatory environment through 68 legislative and regulatory initiatives.

A major focus is placed on enhancing the social visibility of the forestry sector and fostering innovation through research and technology transfer. By optimising public funding via public-private partnerships and establishing mechanisms such as a finalist Forest Fund, the plan seeks to create a more favourable economic environment for forest operations. The implementation of the Forest Holdings Information System (SIEX) will further aid in digitising records and improving the transparency of the entire supply chain.

With the above national policies, Malaysian exports can attempt to tap into the potential of supplying Spain with environmentally savvy products to cater to their needs. Exploring or joining furnishing, decoration, or household exhibitions in Spain or nearby countries to learn more about their preferences and demanded designs can bring more opportunities to better understand their taste and demand.

To capture a significant market share in the Spanish timber and furniture sector by 2026, Malaysian companies must strategically leverage their expertise in producing high-quality, sustainable wood products that align with Spain's robust construction expansion and growing demand for eco-friendly materials. As wood accounts for a dominant share of the Spanish furniture market, the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS)—which is endorsed by the global PEFC standard—would serve as a critical selling point to meet Spain's strict sustainability preferences and the upcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) requirements. Beyond raw timber, there is a clear opportunity in high-value segments such as prefabricated wood buildings and smart, modular furniture designed for urban living. By focusing on the unique aesthetics of tropical timber species and ensuring certified legality through systems like MyTLAS, Malaysian exporters can position themselves as reliable, premium partners in Spain's hospitality refurbishments and residential renovation markets.



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INDONESIA



Plywood Exports Remain Strong Despite Tariff Shock

Indonesia's wood product market shows a divergence, with its core plywood segment performing well, while the furniture industry faces an imminent threat from the United States. Indonesia Eximbank (LPEI) forecasts a positive growth trajectory for plywood exports, projecting an 8% year-on-year growth in value for 2025 and an estimated 4% growth continuing into 2026. In the first half of 2025, plywood exports recorded an almost 4% rise in value and a 3% increase in volume. Indonesia ranks as the second-largest global plywood exporter, supplying over 85 countries with support from more than 400 active exporters.

The furniture sector, which relies heavily on the USA as its main export market (accounting for over half of exports), is anticipating a significant downturn. New USA tariffs, effective 1 October 2025, include up to 50% on kitchen cabinets/bathroom vanities and 30% on upholstered products. Some reports cite a 25% tariff on kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, and upholstered furniture taking effect from 14 October 2025. The combined effect of new and existing duties could result in a total tariff of 29% on lumber and 44% on upholstered furniture from Indonesia. This pressure is projected to cause a 20-35% drop in upholstered furniture orders over the next three to six months, and an expected decline of 10-15% in wood case goods orders.

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

Exports to South Korea declined more sharply, earning million in August 2025, down 13 percent from the same month in 2024. For the January–August period, exports to South Korea fell 6 percent to USD 493.2 million.

Vietnam's pine timber imports in August 2025 amounted to 102,100 cubic metres, valued at USD 19.9 million, down 7 percent in both volume and value compared to July 2025. Compared to August 2024, imports were down 9 percent in volume and 24 percent in value. For the first eight months of 2025, pine imports reached 690,000 cubic metres, worth USD 139.5 million, up 15 percent in volume and 5 percent in value versus the same period last year. The growth reflects ongoing demand for raw materials as furniture exports maintain an upward trend.

Imports of wood and raw materials from the European Union rose for the fourth consecutive month in July 2025, reaching 115,450 cubic metres, valued at USD 34.73 million. This represents a 6 percent increase in volume but a 2 percent decline in value compared to June 2025, and an 8 percent volume and 5 percent value increase versus July 2024. From January to July 2025, imports from the EU totalled 575,860 cubic metres, worth USD 183.68 million, up 24 percent in both volume and value year-on-year.

Preliminary estimates suggest that Vietnam's W&WP exports in September 2025 will reach USD 1.3 billion, up 4 percent compared to September 2024. Of this, wood products are expected to account for USD 864 million, down 6 percent from the same month last year. For the first nine months of 2025, total W&WP exports are estimated at USD 12.4 billion, up 6 percent year-on-year, with wood products contributing USD 8.5 billion, up 5 percent.

Despite overall growth, exports have shown signs of slowing since August, reflecting weaker demand from key international markets. Analysts note that global consumer demand is softening, putting pressure on Vietnam's USD 18 billion export target for 2025.

Raw wood imports, including logs and sawnwood, in September 2025 are estimated at 684,000 cubic metres, valued at USD 218.9 million, up 9 percent in volume and 10 percent in value compared with August 2025. Compared to September 2024, imports increased 39 percent in both volume and value. For the first nine months of 2025, raw wood imports are estimated at 5.27 million cubic metres, worth USD 1.67 billion, up 28 percent in volume and 25 percent in value year-on-year. Full-year imports are expected to total 7 million cubic metres, valued at around USD 2.3 billion, reflecting expanding supply sources and efforts to ensure legality and sustainability in the supply chain.

Vietnam's non-timber forest product (NTFP) exports in August 2025 increased slightly to USD 66.26 million, up 0.4 percent compared with July 2025, but down 1 percent versus August 2024. For the first eight months of 2025, NTFP exports reached USD 574.2 million, up 5 percent year-on-year.

Vietnam's data highlights a dynamic wood sector, with continuing growth in exports and imports, but the recent slowdown in overseas demand signals challenges for meeting the full-year export target and sustaining profitability amid global market pressures.

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy>, 24 October 2025

VIETNAM



Wood and Wood Products Exports Show Mixed Trends Amid Slowing Global Demand

Vietnam's exports of wood and wood products (W&WP) continued to grow in 2025, but recent data indicates a slowdown in key overseas markets. Customs Department figures show that exports to the UK in August 2025 reached USD 20.6 million, down 1 percent compared with August 2024. However, for the first eight months of 2025, exports to the UK totalled USD 159.6 million, up 9 percent year-on-year.



Leads Global Forest Recovery with Massive Tree-Planting Effort

While much of the world continues to lose vast areas of forest, China stands out as a major exception. According to a new United Nations report cited by Yale Environment 360, China has added more than 170 million acres of forest since 1990 — an area roughly the size of Texas.

Globally, forest loss remains severe. The world has been losing around 20 million acres of forest each year in recent years, driven mainly by land clearing for agriculture and livestock, as well as by fires and drought intensified by global warming. The most extensive losses have occurred in Brazil, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, according to the U.N. assessment.

However, the report highlights that forests are expanding in many other parts of the world. In wealthier countries, where agricultural efficiency has improved and rural populations have declined, deforestation has slowed or even reversed. The U.N. data show that forest cover is now increasing across the United States, Canada, Russia, and much of Europe.

“In Asia, both China and India have experienced notable gains as economic development has coincided with extensive reforestation programs. Since 1990, Russia has added about 52 million acres, India 22 million, and Canada 20 million acres of new forest.”

Much of this growth in China comes from large-scale tree-planting projects designed to combat desertification. Over the past 35 years, the country has planted roughly 120 million acres of forest, according to U.N. figures. One of the most significant initiatives was completed last year: a 2,000-mile-long tree belt encircling the Taklamakan Desert in the country's west, begun in 1978. Work also continues on a similar project around the Gobi Desert in the north.

Even as China faces growing risks from heat, drought, and wildfires, the overall trend remains one of forest expansion — in stark contrast to global deforestation trends that continue to accelerate elsewhere.

Source: <https://YE.Fordaq>, 24 October 2025



Rise in Tropical Plywood Prices

Japan's tropical plywood importers have observed price increases for 12mm thick plywood from production sources in Malaysia.

According to Japan Lumber Reports (JLR), at the point of origin, 12mm 3 × 6 coated formwork plywood is priced at USD 600-610, cost and freight (C&F) per cubic metre (cu m); standard formwork plywood is USD 500-510, C&F per cu m; and structural plywood is USD 510-520, C&F per cubic metre (cu m).

Price increases have also been reported for Falcata combination plywood from Indonesia: 2.4mm 3 × 6 plywood is USD 970; 3.7mm 3 × 6 plywood is USD 880; and 5.2mm 3 × 6 plywood is USD 850, all C&F per cubic metre (cu m).

In Japan, the movement of imported South Sea (tropical) plywood has been somewhat sluggish, said JLR. Its bi-monthly report is reproduced in the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) Tropical Timber Market Report (September 16-30, 2025).

“Despite expectations of rising domestic prices driven by higher source-country prices for mainly 12mm thick products and the weaker yen, buyers continue to make purchases only as needed.

“The price of 12mm 3 × 6 coated formwork plywood is 1,800 - 1,850 yen, delivered per sheet. Standard formwork plywood is around 1,550 yen, structural plywood 1,550 yen, 2.5mm plywood 780 yen, 4mm plywood 930 yen, and 5.5mm plywood is 1,100 yen (all delivered per sheet).”

According to the Japan Lumber Report (JLR) On domestic softwood plywood in Japan the market saw particularly sluggish movement towards the end of August.

“Although manufacturers continued to push for price increases in July and August to improve profitability, actual demand remained weak, resulting in flat price trends. Therefore, the price of 12mm 3 × 6 domestic structural plywood is 1,090 - 1,100 yen, delivered per sheet. Meanwhile, major plywood manufacturers have announced further price increases for September, indicating that they are unwilling to sell below 1,100 yen,” added the report.

In a related development, Japan is revising the Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) for wood products, triggered by last year's scandal involving unauthorised use of the JAS mark. (JAS is a certification scheme that ensures producers record, keep and disclose relevant product information, and that consumers can access these details if they choose.)

The New Business and Food Industry Department of the Minister's Secretariat at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will completely prohibit the

use of manually stamped JAS marks. The labelling method will be revised to a system that allows usage tracking through inkjet printing or stickers.

Stricter regulations on the application of the JAS mark are scheduled to be discussed at this summer's JAS Standards Committee meeting, with implementation as early as next summer.

Source: [https://www.globalwood.org/news/20 October 2025](https://www.globalwood.org/news/20%20October%202025)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



No Support In EU Parliament for Proposed Forest Monitoring Law and Targeted Measures to Ensure Timely Implementation of The EU Deforestation Regulation

The European Parliament has rejected a proposal for a new forest monitoring framework, effectively ending its first reading. In a vote on 21 October 2025, 370 MEPs voted to dismiss the European Commission's plan, with 264 opposing the motion of rejection and nine abstaining. The proposed Forest Monitoring Law, introduced by the Commission in November 2023, aimed to create a harmonised system of forest data across the EU, supporting sustainable management and the multiple functions of forests. The initiative was part of the EU Forest Strategy for 2030. However, the framework faced criticism for potentially increasing administrative burdens on forest owners and member states. Representatives of farm and forestry organisations welcomed the rejection, describing the proposal as disconnected from practical realities on the ground. Members of the European People's Party (EPP), who led the vote against the law, argued that excessive bureaucracy could undermine effective forest protection. Following the parliament's decision, the European Commission is expected to formally withdraw the proposal.

In addition, the European Commission has unveiled a set of targeted measures designed to support companies, third countries, and Member States in ensuring the timely and effective implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). The proposal aims to balance environmental responsibility with regulatory practicality, focusing on simplifying reporting requirements and ensuring the readiness of the EU's digital tracking system. According to the Commission, the measures are intended to make the EUDR IT system fully operational while maintaining a robust mechanism to trace the origin of products linked to deforestation. The proposal also introduces simplified procedures for micro and small primary operators from low-risk countries, easing their administrative burden without compromising the regulation's core objectives.

Key measures

The proposal reflects feedback gathered from stakeholders throughout the year as part of the Commission's simplification efforts. It introduces several key changes to reduce administrative obligations for specific categories of companies:

Downstream operators and traders, such as retailers or large EU manufacturers, who commercialise EUDR products already placed on the EU market, would no longer be required to submit separate due diligence statements. Responsibility for compliance would remain with the upstream operators who first place the products on the market. For example, only the importer of cocoa beans would have to submit a due diligence statement, while chocolate manufacturers would not need to repeat the process.

Micro and small primary operators from low-risk countries would benefit from a simplified, one-off declaration system. When relevant data is already available in national databases, these operators would not need to take further action in the EUDR IT system. This replaces the previous requirement for regular due diligence submissions.

Transitional period to strengthen the IT system

Acknowledging the technical and operational challenges of implementing the regulation, the Commission has proposed a phased entry into application.

- ♦ For large and medium-sized enterprises, the EUDR will apply from 30 December 2025, with an additional six-month grace period for checks and enforcement.
- ♦ For micro and small enterprises, the application date will be 30 December 2026, allowing them more time to adapt.

The Commission notes that the revised timeline reflects a substantial reassessment of the expected workload on the EUDR IT system, which has proven to be much higher than initially projected. Since the system's launch in December 2024, close cooperation with stakeholders has revealed the need for additional capacity to manage the volume of due diligence statements and interactions. The new schedule, coupled with streamlined reporting obligations, is intended to ensure that the IT system can handle the anticipated load and that implementation proceeds smoothly across the supply chain. The Commission also announced that contingency plans are being prepared to enable companies to comply with their obligations in case the proposal is not adopted in time.

Next steps

The proposal will now be discussed by the European Parliament and the Council, which must formally adopt the targeted amendment before it can take effect. The Commission has urged both institutions to swiftly approve the extension of the implementation period by the end of 2025, ensuring that the EU Deforestation Regulation enters into force in an orderly and effective manner—upholding the EU's commitment to fighting global deforestation while safeguarding the competitiveness of European businesses.

Source: <https://www.fordaq.com>, 22 October 2025



Overall Imports Slip as Engineered Wood Sees Growth

UK timber and panel product imports fell by nearly 3% in the first quarter of 2025, according to the latest TDUK statistics. While softwood, hardwood, and MDF shipments declined, engineered wood and plywood recorded strong growth, reflecting shifting supply dynamics and resilient demand for specialist products. Total imports reached 4.76 million m³ in the first six months of 2025, down 2.9% from 4.90 million m³ in the first half of 2024. The bulk of this decline was driven by weaker demand in the second quarter of the year, with second-quarter volumes 159,000 m³ lower than in the second quarter of 2024, outweighing a small increase of 16,000 m³ in the first quarter. Across the main product categories, imports of solid wood fell by 3.8% in the first quarter of 2025, while panel product imports declined by 1.2%. Softwood, hardwood, and medium-density fibreboard (MDF) sectors all recorded lower volumes, with softwood imports dropping by 4%. Much of this was due to a reduction of 145,000 m³ in imports from Sweden – down 10% year-on-year. Ireland and Germany also supplied less softwood to the UK market, though imports from Latvia and Finland offset some of the decline, with combined volumes from those countries rising by 60,000 m³. Growth of 7% from Latvia and 6% from Finland helped boost their market share.

For tropical hardwoods, a weaker second quarter of 2025 reversed a near 3% growth in the first quarter of 2025 into a 6% loss for the first half of the year. MDF also saw a significant fall in volumes, with imports down 29% compared to the previous year. Despite the overall downward trend, some product areas continued to perform well. Particleboard, plywood, and particularly engineered wood products (EWP) saw notable increases in imports, underlining the growing importance of these materials in construction and manufacturing. Engineered wood continues to defy the broader market slowdown, driven by its versatility and rising demand in sustainable building applications. Although EWP products are the smallest timber group analysed, they saw 14% growth in the first half of 2025, with each type of EWP growing strongly. Softwood Plywood also enjoyed a 12.6% growth compared with 2024, with Brazil consolidating its position as the number one supplying country – accounting for almost three-quarters of all softwood plywood imported by the UK. Imports from China fell by a fifth, meanwhile, with Finnish imports also falling by one-third.

While many traditional timber categories softened, engineered wood products have emerged as a standout performer. Laminated veneer lumber (LVL) imports rose by nearly 10% year-on-year, driven by stronger shipments from Finland and Poland, which together supplied over 90% of UK demand.

Cross-laminated timber (CLT) imports saw the largest percentage gain, climbing 20%, largely due to increased volumes from the Czech Republic, which offered competitive pricing alongside growth in Austrian supply. Glulam imports also climbed by 12%, supported by Germany, Austria, and Estonia, which collectively supply over 70% of UK demand. Prices for glulam declined by around 11% year-on-year, adding to its attractiveness for construction projects. I-beams, the largest EWP category by volume, posted an 18% rise in imports, with Poland and Sweden dominating the market and maintaining stable pricing. Plywood imports also strengthened, with hardwood plywood shipments growing 11% and softwood plywood up 12.6% year-on-year. The sharp growth in hardwood plywood was mainly driven by China, which supplied an additional 58,000 m³ in the first quarter of 2025, and Malaysia, up 12,500 m³. In contrast, Indonesia and Latvia saw declines, with reductions also recorded from Finland, Uruguay, and Spain.

Hardwood imports overall dipped by just under 2% in the first quarter of 2025, but the picture across supplying countries was highly uneven. The United States, France, and Latvia collectively increased their shipments by more than 15,000 m³, a combined rise of 18%. Latvia's supply of lower-cost temperate hardwoods surged by 78%, and U.S. shipments grew by 14%. However, smaller suppliers experienced steep losses: Estonia's shipments fell 14%, Romania's dropped 19%, and imports from the Republic of Congo were down 10%. Tropical hardwood imports followed a similar pattern, with Cameroon (+6%) and Malaysia (+28%) offsetting declines from the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and several West African nations. Mixed hardwood volumes, in contrast, rose sharply by 15%, helping to balance declines in temperate and tropical species. The combination of higher U.S. and Latvian supply, particularly of poplar, alder, and aspen, contributed to this shift, while Sweden and Estonia both recorded double-digit reductions.

Price trends across timber and panel products continue to diverge sharply. Softwood prices have risen steadily, with the average basket price for softwood imports reaching GBP 291 per m³ in June 2025 – a 10.8% increase over the first quarter of 2024. Redwoods led the way, climbing 26%, while whitewood prices dropped by 5%. Hardwood prices were broadly flat year-on-year, with temperate species rising 7% and tropical species falling 5%. The dominance of Chinese hardwood plywood imports has pushed prices down by 8.2% over the past year, with June prices averaging GBP 386 per m³. By contrast, softwood plywood prices have been more volatile, rising nearly 9% in the first quarter of 2025 before sliding by 4% in second quarter, leaving prices 2.4% higher than the previous year. Timber demand remains closely tied to housebuilding trends, which continue to show long-term weakness despite recent quarterly gains.

Housing starts in England were 23% higher in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the first quarter of 2024, but this follows a 25% decline in total starts during 2024. Completions also fell by 5% last year, with private-sector completions down 6%. The broader UK economy has grown modestly, with GDP up 1.2% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2025. Interest rates eased slightly to 4.0% in August, but inflation remains above target, with CPI at 3.6% in June and CPIH at 4.1%. Exchange rates have fluctuated,

with Sterling weakening against the Euro and Dollar, but showing resilience against some Asian currencies, influencing timber import costs and competitiveness. Mr Nick Boulton, Head of Technical and Trade Policy at TDUK, said: "After a relatively steady start to 2025, timber import volumes softened in the second quarter, resulting in a modest decline compared to last year. We're seeing a mixed picture across product categories: softwood, hardwood and MDF volumes have eased back, while engineered wood products and other panel products are enjoying strong growth, reflecting ongoing market shifts. Rising softwood prices and subdued levels of housebuilding add complexity but the strong performance of engineered wood underlines its growing role in UK construction."

Source: <https://www.timberdevelopment.uk>, 16 October 2025

and declining affordability have curbed demand for new homes and renovation projects — key drivers of softwood lumber consumption.

The situation has already led to production curtailments across Canada. Several British Columbia mills have announced extended shutdowns or reduced shifts, citing persistently weak prices and limited access to economic log supply. Western Forest Products, for instance, has suspended operations at its Chemainus mill until the end of the year, while Interfor has reduced production by 12% across its North American network.

Provincial authorities have acknowledged the deteriorating conditions. Recent policy adjustments to B.C. Timber Sales aim to improve access to logs for smaller operators and stabilize the local forest sector, but the impact will likely take time. Many mills continue to face delays in obtaining cutting permits, further constraining flexibility during downturns.

The outlook for the remainder of 2025 remains uncertain. While some seasonal improvement in U.S. construction could absorb part of the excess inventory, the combination of high borrowing costs, heavy stock levels, and increased trade duties points to continued volatility.

For now, the Canadian softwood lumber market is caught in a paradox: high costs, low prices, and little room to adjust. Producers are left waiting for a genuine rebound in demand — one that may not come until well into 2026.

Source: <https://www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com>, 9 October 2025

CANADA



Oversupply Hits Canadian Timber Industry

Canadian lumber producers are facing one of the sharpest price drops in years, as an unexpected combination of overproduction, weak demand, and new export duties has sent prices tumbling. Despite expectations that tariffs would push values higher, the opposite has occurred — and the sector is now struggling with oversupply and shrinking margins.

Lumber futures have fallen by around 25% since early August, erasing nearly all of the gains made earlier in the summer. The decline comes just weeks after the latest increase in U.S. duties on Canadian softwood lumber took effect. Instead of tightening the market, the new trade measures have contributed to widespread overstocking, as mills and distributors rushed to move volumes before the higher tariffs were applied.

In the run-up to the new duties, Canadian producers — particularly in British Columbia — accelerated shipments to the U.S. market. As a result, dealers and wholesalers entered September with high inventories, just as construction demand slowed due to elevated interest rates. With buyers fully stocked and no immediate need to replenish, prices began to fall sharply.

For many western Canadian mills, current market levels are well below production costs. Losses of over USD200 per thousand board feet are now common across standard spruce, pine, and fir grades. Lumber prices were listed at USD482 per thousand board feet in late September, compared to over USD500 a month earlier.

Weakness in U.S. housing construction has added to the pressure. Although housing starts remain slightly above last year's levels, high mortgage rates



Decorative Hardwoods Industry Urges Increase of Products Under Section 232 Tariffs Proposal

Following the announcement of the new Section 232 tariffs on timber products, a group of nine CEOs and presidents representing American manufacturers of hardwood plywood, engineered wood flooring and hardwood veneer have asked for their products to be added to the list. According to the group of companies, more than 100,000 American manufacturing jobs are threatened by the "flood of dumped and subsidised decorative hardwood product imports from outside of North America." The group pointed to the news that Roseburg Forest Products had closed its last hardwood plywood mill and exited the hardwood plywood market as a result of these imports, which the company said now dominate 80% of the US market. Mr. Jeremy Manthei, CEO of Manthei Wood Products, stated that "dumped and subsidised hardwood plywood from overseas is wiping out our industry," and requested that hardwood plywood, engineered wood flooring and hardwood veneer be added to the Section 232 wood product tariffs.

UNITED STATES



In other news, lumber futures fell below USD 610 per thousand board feet, their lowest level since October 8, and down 12% from a three-year high in early August, as a slowing US housing market outweighed potential supply curbs from tariffs. August building permits dropped to a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 1.33 million, the lowest since May 2020, while housing starts fell 8.5%, marking the fourth-lowest reading in over five years. Earlier this month, the US imposed a 10% tariff on Canadian lumber, with the Trump administration stating it aims to expand domestic timber harvesting and reduce reliance on foreign lumber. Looking ahead, expected Federal Reserve rate cuts could stimulate construction and home buying and encourage homeowners to borrow for repairs and renovations, the largest driver of lumber demand. However, signs of a slowing labour market and rising inflation suggest demand may remain subdued.

Source: <https://www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com>, 22 October 2025

GHANA



Export Receipts Fall 19% Year-On-Year

Ghana's wood product export earnings in the first eight months of 2025 fell 19% year-on-year according to the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) August 2025 report. The report revealed that a total of EUR 66.44 million was earned from the export of 143,438 m³ for the period under review compared with EUR 82.46 million recorded in the same period of 2024 from 182,542 m³. The drop in exports could be attributed to the dwindling supply of raw materials faced by local millers as well as macroeconomic constraints. With a total of 17 products exported during the period, primary product exports which included air-dried sawnwood, billets, air-dried boules and poles earned EUR 36.28 million from 97,050 m³ of the total export value and volume respectively. Tertiary wood products accounted for 5% of export volumes while exports of secondary wood products accounted for the balance. Concerns have been raised that further progress in production of added value products is hindered by outdated machinery and low-level production techniques. The Asian and European markets remain the stronghold for Ghana's wood product exports accounting for an average of 66% and 16% respectively of the total export volumes. In August 2025, India was the single largest importer of Ghana's wood products, accounting for 50% of the total export volume. India imported 7,408 m³ of air-dried teak sawnwood valued at EUR 2.59 million. Teak products, especially air-dried sawnwood, were the main species exported. Italy and Spain imported sliced veneer but there was a decline in rotary veneer exports to the US.

Source: https://www.itto.int/files/user/mis/MIS_15 October 2025



Global Deforestation Slows, But Forests Remain Under Pressure, Fao Report Shows

Deforestation has slowed across all regions over the last decade, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 (FRA 2025). The report, released every five years, was published today during the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) Plenary in Bali, Indonesia. Forests now cover 4.14 billion hectares, or roughly one-third of the planet's land area, with nearly half located in the tropics. Positive trends include a growing share of forests under long-term management plans (55%) and legally protected areas (20%). Despite these improvements, global forests remain under pressure. The current deforestation rate stands at 10.9 million hectares per year, posing risks to biodiversity, carbon storage, water regulation, and protection against natural hazards. Naturally regenerating forests make up 92% of global forest area, while primary forests cover 1.18 billion hectares. Planted forests account for 8%, and forest carbon stocks have risen to 714 gigatonnes.

FAO Director-General, Mr. QU Dongyu, emphasized that FRA data is critical for understanding forest conditions and informing policies, investments, and sustainable management. Key findings from FRA 2025:

- 🌿 Forest cover: 4.14 billion hectares (32% of global land).
- 🌿 Net forest loss: Declined from 10.7 million ha/year in the 1990s to 4.12 million ha/year in 2015–2025.
- 🌿 Deforestation vs expansion: Net deforestation slowed to 10.9 million ha/year; forest expansion slowed to 6.78 million ha/year.
- 🌿 Naturally regenerating forests: 3.83 billion ha; net loss slowed, with declines mainly in Africa and South America.
- 🌿 Primary forests: 1.18 billion ha; loss rate halved since early 2000s.
- 🌿 Planted forests: 312 million ha, expanding globally but at slower rates.
- 🌿 Protected areas: 813 million ha, up 251 million ha since 1990.
- 🌿 Management plans: 2.13 billion ha under long-term plans.
- 🌿 Disturbances: Fires affect 261 million ha/year; pests, diseases, and severe weather damaged 41 million ha in 2020.
- 🌿 Ownership: 71% public, 24% private, and the remainder other or unknown.
- 🌿 Management objectives: 1.20 billion ha for production, 616 million ha for multiple use, 482 million ha for biodiversity, 386 million ha for soil/water, and 221 million ha for social services.

Source: <https://www.fordaq.com>, 22 October 2025



Port Klang Ranks Among The World's Top 10 Busiest Container Ports

Malaysia celebrates a historic maritime milestone as Lloyd's List 2025 has ranked Port Klang at 10th position in the Top 100 Ports list, making it one of the world's top 10 busiest container ports for the first time. Port Klang has surpassed Hong Kong in the rankings, underscoring Malaysia's strength as an emerging maritime powerhouse. This achievement is especially meaningful as it coincides with the nation's 68th Merdeka Day, symbolising resilience, unity, and progress on the international stage.

Outstanding Performance in 2024

- ◆ 14.64 million TEUs throughput in 2024, a growth of 4.1% compared to 14.06 million TEUs in 2023.
- ◆ Growth was driven by a robust 8.9% increase in import and export activities, reflecting Malaysia's solid trade fundamentals.
- ◆ Despite global challenges such as the Red Sea crisis, Port Klang demonstrated resilience and adaptability to shifting global trade flows.
- ◆ Throughput is projected to reach 14.98 million TEUs in 2025, further strengthening its standing as a leading global hub.

Consistent Climb in Global Rankings Port Klang's rise in global port rankings highlights steady improvement over recent years:

- ◆ 2022 – 13th position
- ◆ 2023 – 11th position
- ◆ 2025 – 10th position

Port Klang Ranking

Year	Lloyd's list Top 100 Ports ranking	Total TEUs (million)
2022	13	13.223
2023	11	14.061
2024	10	14.644

Sources: Lloyd's List

Llyod's List Top 100 Ports Ranking

Ranking	2023	2024
1.	Shanghai, China	Shanghai, China
2.	Singapore	Singapore
3.	Ningbo-Zhoushan, China	Ningbo-Zhoushan, China
4.	Shenzhen, China	Shenzhen, China
5.	Qingdao, China	Qingdao, China
6.	Guangzhou, China	Guangzhou, China
7.	Busan, South Korea	Busan, South Korea
8.	Tianjin, China	Tianjin, China
9.	Dubai, UAE	Dubai, UAE
10.	Hong Kong, China	Port Klang, Malaysia
11.	Port Klang, Malaysia	Rotterdam, Netherlands
12.	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Hong Kong, China
13.	Xiamen, China	Antwerp-Bruges
14.	Antwerp-Bruges,	Xiamen, China
15.	Tanjung Pelepas, Malaysia	Tanjung Pelepas, Malaysia
16.	Laem Chabang, Thailand	Los Angeles. US
17.	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	Tanger Med, Morocco
18.	Los Angeles, US	Suzhou, China
19.	Tanger Med, Morocco	Long Beach, US
20.	Taicang, China	Laem Chabang, Thailand

Sources: Lloyd's List
(Ministry of Transport Malaysia_1 September 2025)

Tanjung Pelepas Leads Global Port Year-On-Year Volume Growth in H1 2025 as PTP Handles Record Volumes for The Gemini Cooperation Network

Malaysia's Tanjung Pelepas recorded the largest year-on-year increase among the world's top container ports, according to Alphaliner's mid-year review of the top-30 ports. Terminal operator PTP, a joint venture between MMC Corp and Maersk's APM Terminals, reported a 15.4% rise in volumes for the first half of 2025 compared with the same period a year earlier. Throughput for H1 2025 stood at 6.87 m TEU, up from 5.95 m TEU in H1 2024. The surge has been attributed to Gemini Cooperation's decision to make the port its hub for the headhaul leg of Far East-Europe services, with CEO Mark Hardiman saying Gemini volumes now account for around 60% of total throughput.

PTP handles more calls than any other port in the system, and since the network's launch, increased volumes have kept PTP's monthly throughput at record highs. PTP has been boosting capacity to handle the surge in volumes and most recently welcomed several deliveries of advanced equipment. This includes nine electric RTG (e-RTG) cranes, the first four of a 48-unit order placed with Japan's Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding in November 2023, and three STS cranes from SANY Marine. These are the first cranes to be delivered of the 15 STS units on order from SANY and ZPMC.

Among other top performers, China's Shenzhen reported 10.8% year-on-year growth, reaching 17.2m TEU, while Thailand's Laem Chabang posted 10.5% growth to 5.1m TEU in H1 2025. In terms of overall volumes, Shanghai retains the top spot with 27m TEU, followed by Singapore with 21.7m TEU and Ningbo-Zhoushan close behind at 21.05m TEU. Hong Kong and Kaohsiung were among the few ports to post declines, with Hong Kong down 3.4% year-on-year to 6.5m TEU and Kaohsiung falling 2.2% to 4.5m TEU.

Data from Alphaliner further shows that Malaysia's second-largest gateway, Port Kelang, recorded 2.9% growth. After several years of decline, Europe's third-largest port, Hamburg, rose 9.3%, driven by Far East (+10.7%) and Baltic Sea (+20.8%) trade.

US West Coast gateways also saw a rebound as congestion eased. Los Angeles and Long Beach (LA/LB) throughput rose 7.5% in H1 2025 to 9.7m TEU, the highest January-June figure since 2022. By contrast, New York and New Jersey (NY/NJ) grew 4.9% to 4.4m TEU, with LA/LB continuing to outperform in July as shippers rushed imports ahead of tariff changes.

World Cargo News_2 September 2025

China Fights Back at USTR Fees

State news agency Xinhua reported that Chinese Premier Li Qiang had signed a State Council Decree that revised rules on international maritime transport to regulate related activities.

The report on the decree was republished on the English version of the State Council of the People's Republic of China website.

"Under the revised regulations, China will take necessary countermeasures against countries or regions that impose or support discriminatory bans, restrictions, or similar measures targeting Chinese operators, vessels, or crew engaged in international maritime transport and related services," the report stated.

It said that measures would be enacted unless "relevant treaties or agreements offer adequate and effective remedies.

International shipping operators will be required to submit information to the Chinese authorities. No details of what information would be required was given for the regulations that came into effect on 28 September.

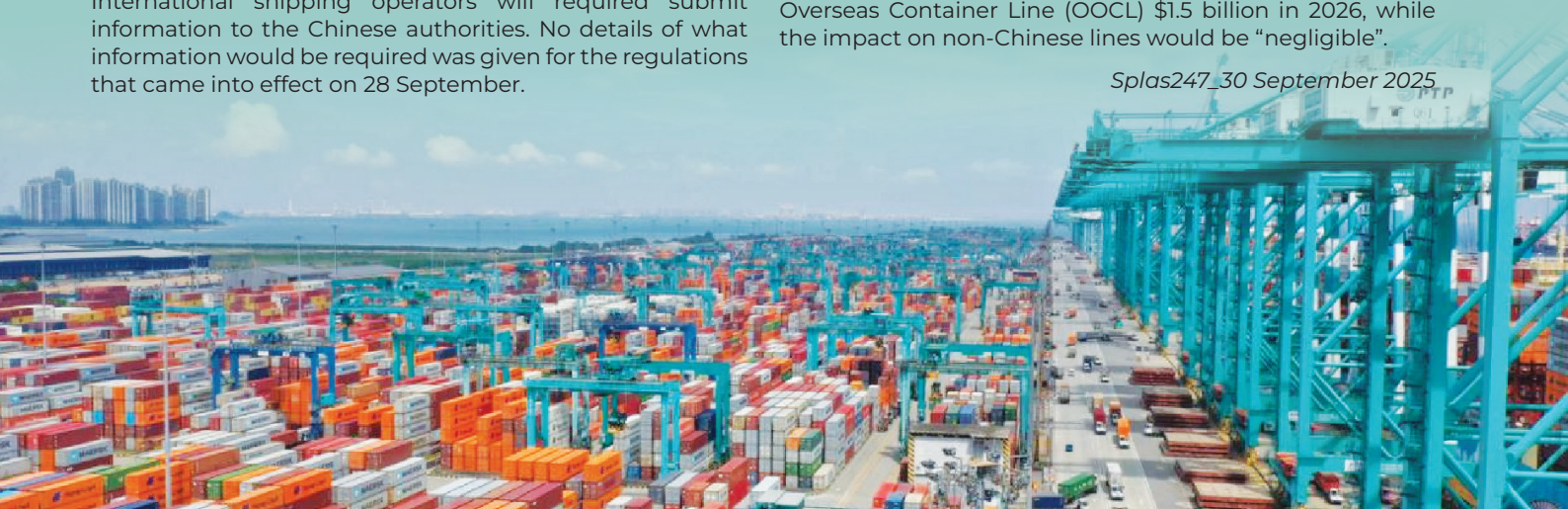
While the US was not named the decree comes into force more than two weeks before the United States Trade Representative (USTR) port fees for Chinese owned and operated, and Chinese-built vessels come into force on 14 October.

The USTR measures are stated to be designed to combat Chinese dominance in shipbuilding, but the impact is significantly higher on Chinese owners and operators, than it is on other owners of Chinese built ships.

The fees by the US will be charged for Chinese owned and operated vessels will be \$50 per net tonne (NT) from 14 October 2025 rising to \$140 per NT in 2028. For Chinese-built vessels the fee from 14 October 2025 will be \$18 per NT or \$120 per container rising to \$33 per NT or \$250 per container in 2028. Fees are capped at five times per vessel, per year.

Earlier this month HSBC Global Investment Research estimated that the fees would cost Cosco Shipping and Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL) \$1.5 billion in 2026, while the impact on non-Chinese lines would be "negligible".

Splas247_30 September 2025



China and Pakistan Boost Maritime Development

China and Pakistan have launched the Maritime Action Plan for the period of 2025-2029 and aim to develop Gwadar port into a regional hub for trading and connectivity.

The plan will focus on advancing marine economy development, sustainable resource use, scientific research, shipbuilding, and environmental protection under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) - the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The plan also calls for electronic data interchange and smart port technologies to connect Gwadar with Chinese

and global shipping networks, as well as the development of port-related industries, warehousing, and cold storage facilities to facilitate regional trade and transshipment.

Pakistan Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, emphasized that the Action Plan demonstrates Pakistan's resolve to build a resilient maritime economy and consolidate strategic ties with China, strengthening Pakistan's maritime presence and advancing shared prosperity under the CPEC framework.

Splash247_26 September 2025

Tariffs Hit Panama Canal's Transit Numbers

Traffic levels through the Panama Canal are not expected to reach the pre-2023-24 drought levels as US import duties hit demand for cargo, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has warned.

According to canal Administrator Ricaurte Vásquez Morales the authority expects to handle 33 transits daily in 2026 compared to the 36 vessels transiting before the drought.

"The waterway reported strong financials for the current year, with gross income for the 2025 fiscal year ending this month expected at \$5 billion due to widespread frontloading of imports ahead of tariffs, but this is expected to now drop off for both East and Gulf importers," reported Alphaliner.

Looking further ahead as *Seatrade Maritime News* reported last week the ACP is looking to invest \$8 billion in infrastructure projects that will safeguard drinking water as well as protect the canal from future droughts. A two-pillar



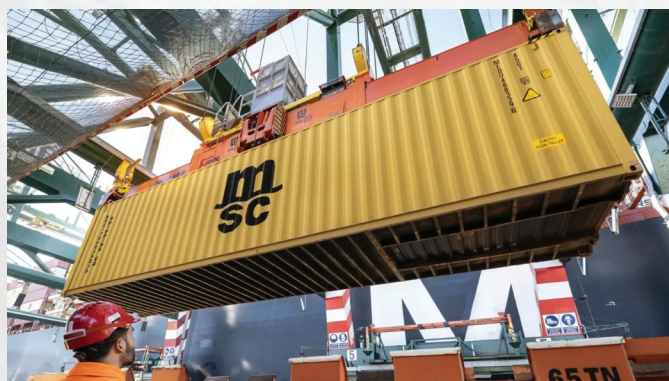
investment will see increased storage capacity for drinking water, while the ACP also announced the diversification of business activities, "expanding transport capacity without increasing water usage. With these measures, the canal seeks to capture maximum value from its route," said an ACP statement.

Splash247_24 September 2025

MSC Launches Middle East – South America Service

Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) will introduce a direct service to the Middle East market from the east coast of South America.

The new service will begin in October 2025 and will have Abu Dhabi as its key transshipment hub.



"This new link is specially designed for refrigerated cargo bound for the main ports of the Persian Gulf," said the shipping company.

"South American exporters and Middle Eastern importers will benefit from faster transit times to Abu Dhabi and other key ports in the region, with deliveries in less than 33 days to Abu Dhabi, 38 days to Shuwaikh and 39 days to Hamad," it added

The first departure will be from Itajaí, Brazil, aboard the 330-metre-long, 48-metre-wide container ship MSC Shreya B, registered under the Portuguese flag (Madeira).

The service will rotate between Buenos Aires – Rio Grande – Itajaí – Navegantes – Paranaguá – Santos – Rio de Janeiro – Walvis Bay – Abu Dhabi – Singapore – Qingdao – Busan – Ningbo – Shanghai – Shekou – Singapore – Colombo – Rio de Janeiro – Santos – Paranaguá – Itapoa – Itajaí – Buenos Aires.

Splash_24 September 2025

CMA CGM and AD Ports Push Ahead with Khalifa Port Terminal Expansion

France's CMA CGM Group and Abu Dhabi's AD Ports have agreed to expand their joint container terminal at Khalifa Port, less than a year after the facility opened, driven by stronger-than-expected demand.

CMA Terminals Khalifa Port — owned 70% by CMA CGM and 30% by AD Ports — has seen rapid uptake since operations began in December 2024. The partners will invest AED 420m (\$115m) in the next expansion phase, split in line with their shareholdings.

The project, scheduled for completion in early 2028, will lift the terminal's capacity by almost 50%, from 1.8m teu to 2.7m teu. The move will push Khalifa Port's total handling capacity to 10.5m teu, up around 9%.

AD Ports' ports cluster CEO Saif Al Mazrouei said the deal underlined the port's momentum and Abu Dhabi's push to strengthen its global trade position. CMA CGM's EVP for operations and assets, Christine Cabau, said the terminal reached full capacity within 10 months, prompting the partners to bring forward phase two.

The expansion will add 400 m of quay to the current 800 m and increase yard space by more than 40%. Upgraded systems and infrastructure — including new reefer racks — are planned to support the growing share of refrigerated cargo.



Khalifa Port has become one of the region's key transshipment hubs, climbing through top ports rankings. Operational performance has kept pace with the growth: in Q3 2025, AD Ports' ports cluster handled 20% more containers year-on-year, with CMA Terminals Khalifa Port close to hitting 1m teu for the year and operating at 87% utilisation.

The expansion move also follows a separate agreement between the two groups in November, when AD Ports purchased a 20% stake in Syria's Latakia International Container Terminal for AED 81m (\$22m). The Abu Dhabi operator will join CMA CGM in managing the facility, which handles more than 95% of Syria's container traffic and is earmarked for expansion from 250,000 teu to 625,000 teu by 2026.

SeaTrade-Maritime_18 September 2025

India Nets \$7BN in Fresh Investment from DP World and Maersk

India's ambitions to become a global maritime powerhouse have gained major momentum, with Dubai-based DP World and Danish group APM Terminals announcing fresh investments worth more than \$7bn combined to expand port and logistics infrastructure across the country.

The announcements, made during India Maritime Week 2025, underscore India's growing pull for foreign port operators as it rolls out large-scale reforms under its Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

DP World will invest an additional \$5bn to strengthen its integrated supply chain and logistics network in India, taking its total commitment to about \$8bn over three decades.

The funding will support multimodal connectivity, lower logistics costs, and drive export competitiveness, the company said.

The new pledge follows the signing of five memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Indian maritime authorities, covering green coastal shipping, ship repair, skill development, and freight mobility.



Among the key partnerships, DP World's feeder operator, Unifeeder, signed an MoU with Sagarmala Finance Corporation to promote sustainable coastal shipping; Drydocks World and Cochin Shipyard Limited agreed to expand ship repair facilities in Kochi; while DP World also inked a deal with Deendayal Port Authority and Nevomo (MagRail) to pilot India's first automated low-emission port track system.

Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, said the investment reflects "a shared commitment to building a connected, confident, and self-reliant India."

Meanwhile, APM Terminals Pipavav signed an MoU with the Gujarat Maritime Board for a \$2bn expansion of the Pipavav port, one of India's most efficient private gateways.

The investment is part of A.P. Moller – Maersk's \$5bn India infrastructure plan, first unveiled earlier this year, and will significantly enhance Pipavav's container, liquid, and ro-ro handling capacity.

APM Terminals Asia & Middle East CEO Jon Goldner said the expansion aims to "unlock new opportunities for Gujarat, for India, and for global trade," calling Pipavav a model of "world-class efficiency and green growth."

The upgraded facilities are expected to generate around 25,000 jobs, strengthen multimodal connectivity with the dedicated freight corridor, and serve key industries such as automotive, energy, and agriculture.

Together, the new commitments by DP World and APM Terminals highlight the accelerating pace of port investment in India, alongside other billion-dollar moves on all things shipping, including plans to add more than 430 ships worth a combined \$26bn.

SeaTrade-Maritime_1 September 2025

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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m³)	% change August 2025/ September 2025
	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change		
Sawn Timber	31,829	-26	8,856	77	509	-30	522	4	4,131	0	45,848	-14
MDF	7,009	-38	0	0	888	-44	1,058	80	32	7	8,987	-34
Mouldings	13,269	-20	7	223	1,249	0	2,103	38	411	42	17,038	-13
Plywood	4,055	-29	0	0	79	-37	630	15	12,324	22	17,088	3
Veneer	389	54	0	0	3	-94	0	0	385	-11	389	54
Particleboard	6,797	-55	0	0	33	95	0	0	3,460	-56	10,290	-55
Total	63,348	-31	8,863	77	2,761	-26	4,313	36	20,742	-9	100,027	-21



LOGS

The timber price in September 2025 for heavy hardwood logs like Chengal recorded the price of RM3,220/tonne, Balau RM3,710/tonne and Red Balau RM2,125/tonne, decreased by 0.2% compared to the previous month. For medium hardwoods like Keruing, Kapur and Tualang the price remained the same compared to last month at RM1,930/tonne, RM1,840/tonne and RM1,383/tonne respectively. The price for Kempas decreased by 3.2% to RM1,491/tonne while Mengkulang price increased by 6.0% to RM1,756/tonne. For light hardwood, the price for Dark Red Meranti was at RM1,675, reduced by 2.9% while Red Meranti price went down to RM1,933/tonne. The price for Ramin also decreased by 46.2% to RM1,050/tonne. For other species the price remained the same compared to last month. As for rubberwood, the price remained the same at RM 203/tonne as compared to last month.



PLYWOOD

In September 2025, the plywood price segment remained the same compared to last month. The prices for 6mm sheets were RM26.00/sheet, 9mm sheets were RM38.00/sheet and 12mm sheets were RM48.50/sheet.



MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

As of September 2025, the MDF price segment remained the same compared to the previous month. The prices 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.



SAWNTIMBER

As of September 2025, the price for Chengal sawntimber remained at RM5,473/m³ in General Market Specification (GMS) grade. Meanwhile price for scantlings remained at RM6,356/m³ and strips remained at RM2,754/m³. This was followed by Balau with its GMS grade priced at RM3,043/m³ and scantlings remaining at RM4,590/m³. As for medium hardwood, timber species such as Keruing remained at RM2,166/m³ for GMS, scantlings were RM2,354/m³ and strips were RM2,354/m³. Meanwhile, for Kempas the price for GMS was RM2,177/m³, scantlings were RM2,366/m³ and strips were RM1,783/m³. The price of rubberwood sawntimber in September 2025 was RM1,235/m³ for 1" x 1" pieces, RM1,320/m³ for 2" x 2" pieces, RM1,405/m³ for 3" x 3" and RM1,460/m³ for 4" x 4 pieces respectively.



TRADE IN MALAYSIA - SEPTEMBER 2025

In September 2025, commerce between Sabah and Sarawak with Peninsular Malaysia totalled at 5,190 m³, with a value of RM4.28 million. Sabah remained the top contributor to the trade value for Peninsular, recording a trade value of RM1.78 million (910 m³) for plywood, followed by logs (RM0.85 million), sawntimber (RM0.28million) and veneer (RM0.76 million). Meanwhile for Sarawak, the trade value for plywood was RM0.39 million and sawntimber was RM0.20 million.



*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA				
RINGGIT MALAYSIA				
SEPTEMBER 2025				
SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD				
Chengal	3,220	5,473	2,754	6,356
Balau	3,710	3,043	1,854	4,590
Red Balau	2,125	2,737	2,101	2,419
Merbau	2,850	3,754	3,225	3,725
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,112	1,326	1,066	1,243
MEDIUM HARDWOOD				
Keruing	1,930	3,119	2,260	2,495
Kempas	1,491	2,166	1,783	2,354
Kapur	1,840	1,746	1,271	1,685
Mengkulang	1,756	1,192	1,365	1,871
Tualang	1,383	1,907	1,518	1,730
LIGHT HARDWOOD				
Dark Red Meranti	1,675	2,083	1,942	3,319
Red Meranti	1,933	1,777	2,013	2,542
Yellow Meranti	1,627	1,593	1,365	1,801
White Meranti	1,683	2,024	1,801	1,600
Mersawa	1,425	1,977	1,330	2,154
Nyatoh	1,357	1,774	1,807	1,201
Sepetir	1,177	1,801	1,601	1,283
Jelutong	1,215	2,119	1,571	1,819
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,223	1,266	1,083	1,112
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD Hevea brasiliensis	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
		1" x 1"	2" x 2"	3" x 3"
	203	1,235	1,320	1,405
				4" x 4"
				1,460
PLYWOOD 4' x 8' (RM per piece)	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
		4mm	6mm	9mm
		19.50	26.00	38.00
				48.50
MDF 4' x 8' (RM per piece)	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
		4mm	6mm	9mm
		12.90	23.95	31.70
				37.80

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

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE

	AUGUST 2025		SEPTEMBER 2025		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	AUG/SEPT	AUG/SEPT
Sabah						
Logs	0	0	3,038	858	100	100
Sawn Timber	555	650	328	278	-41	-57
Plywood	934	1,999	910	1,785	-3	-11
Veneer	245	425	365	765	49	80
Sarawak						
Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawn Timber	402	548	109	202	-73	-63
Plywood	1,355	1,211	441	389	-67	-68
Veneer	0	0	0	0	0	0

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



KEMBANG SEMANGKUK

(*Scaphium* spp.)

Prepared by: Encik Muhammad Amirul Aiman Hanizam

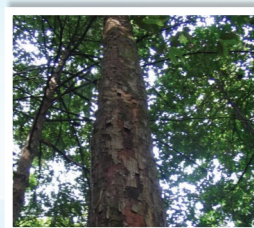


Figure 1: Tree



Figure 1: Leaf



Introduction

The Standard Malaysian Name for the timber of *Scaphium* spp. (Sterculiaceae). The ASEAN Standard Name for the timber, which is of Thai origin, is *Samrong*. The timber is known as *Kapas-kapasan* in Indonesia. There are four species of *Kembang Semangkok* (KSK) found in Peninsular Malaysia. Vernacular names applied include *Kembang Semangkok* (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak) with various epithets. Major species include *S. linearicarpum*, *S. longiflorum*, *S. macropodum* and *S. scaphigerum*. The sapwood is lighter in shade and merges gradually into the heartwood, which is yellow-brown, light buff or light brown.



Anatomy

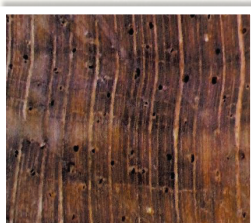


Figure 3: Cross section



Physical Properties

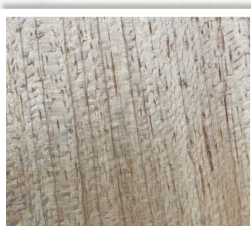


Figure 3: Texture

Kembang Semangkok timber is characterised by a yellow-brown heartwood that is not clearly distinguishable from the sapwood. The texture is generally coarse and uneven, reflecting its anatomical structure. The grain is typically straight, although shallow interlocking may occasionally be present. The species is classified under Strength Group 3 (SG 3). The density of the timber ranges from approximately 515 to 755 kg/m³, placing it within the medium-density category. In terms of natural durability, *Kembang Semangkok* is considered moderately durable,

offering reasonable resistance under normal service conditions but requiring appropriate protection when used in more demanding environments.



Structure

Growth rings are distinct, demarcated by layers of terminal parenchyma, producing a very pleasing figure on the tangential longitudinal surface. Vessels are medium-sized to moderately large, few to fairly few, solitary and in radial groups of 2 to 3, rarely 4, often with a tendency to tangential arrangement. Vessels are open. Wood parenchyma is abundant, visible to the naked eye with paratracheal parenchyma appearing as border around the vessels of varying thickness, sometimes aliform and locally confluent; the apotracheal parenchyma appears as fairly broad bands which stimulate growth rings. Rays are of two distinct sizes, the larger rays being very broad and conspicuous, the smaller rays being fine and only visible with a lens; the fine rays are storeyed. The ray pattern on the tangential longitudinal surface is characteristic and reminiscent of a mosquito-netting. Ripple marks are present but indistinct due to storeying of the fine rays and fibres. Inter cellular canals of the traumatic type are present occasionally.



Uses

The broad rays and the terminal bands of the parenchyma produce a very attractive figure, making the timber very suitable for interior finishing, panelling, furniture manufacture and fancy veneer, whether rotary cut or sliced. In Thailand, it has been successfully used in the manufacture of match splints.



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2 OCTOBER 2025

Timber Certification Incentive Programme (TCIP) Open Day

5 - 7 OCTOBER 2025

Accredited Training Centre System Upgrading and Mapping Programme (SLaPB)

7 - 8 OCTOBER 2025

Bamboo Workshop: Natural Heritage, Community Aspirations

11 OCTOBER 2025

MTIB National Sports Day 2025

14 OCTOBER 2025

FIDEC Testing Service Promotion Programme, Sabah

21 - 22 OCTOBER 2025

Classification Officer Course

27 OCTOBER 2025

Digital Transformation Programme with AI for Leaders

28 OCTOBER 2025Image Power Workshop:
The Secret to Looking Powerful and Professional