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WORLD BAMBOO DAY MALAYSIA 2024



- **GETAH UPAYA SDN. BHD. FOREST PLANTATION IN SUNGKAI, PERAK**
- **CAPITALISING MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN CONTINENT**

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CONTENT

HIGHLIGHTS

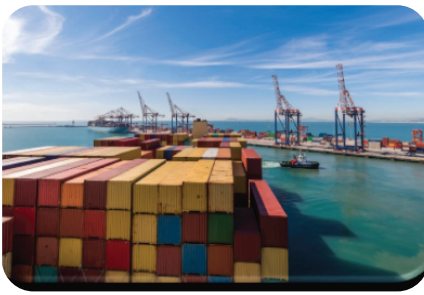


3 | COMPANY PROFILE : GETAH UPAYA SDN. BHD.

5 | CELEBRATION OF WORLD BAMBOO DAY MALAYSIA 2024 (WBD 2024) & NATIONAL BAMBOO SEMINAR

14 | MARKET PROFILE : CAPITALISING MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN CONTINENT

REGULAR FEATURES



07 | Timber Round Up

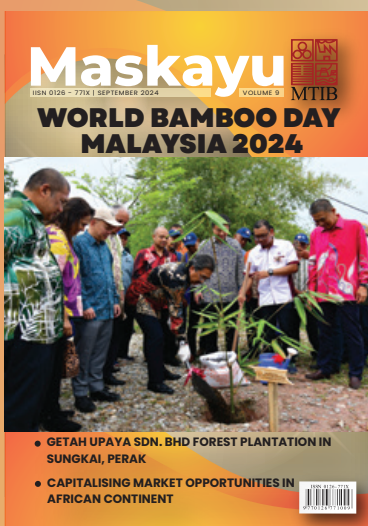
22 | Timber Species

24 | Timber World In Brief

30 | Domestic Trade News

32 | Shipping News

36 | MTIB Moments



Cover: For more details please read page 5

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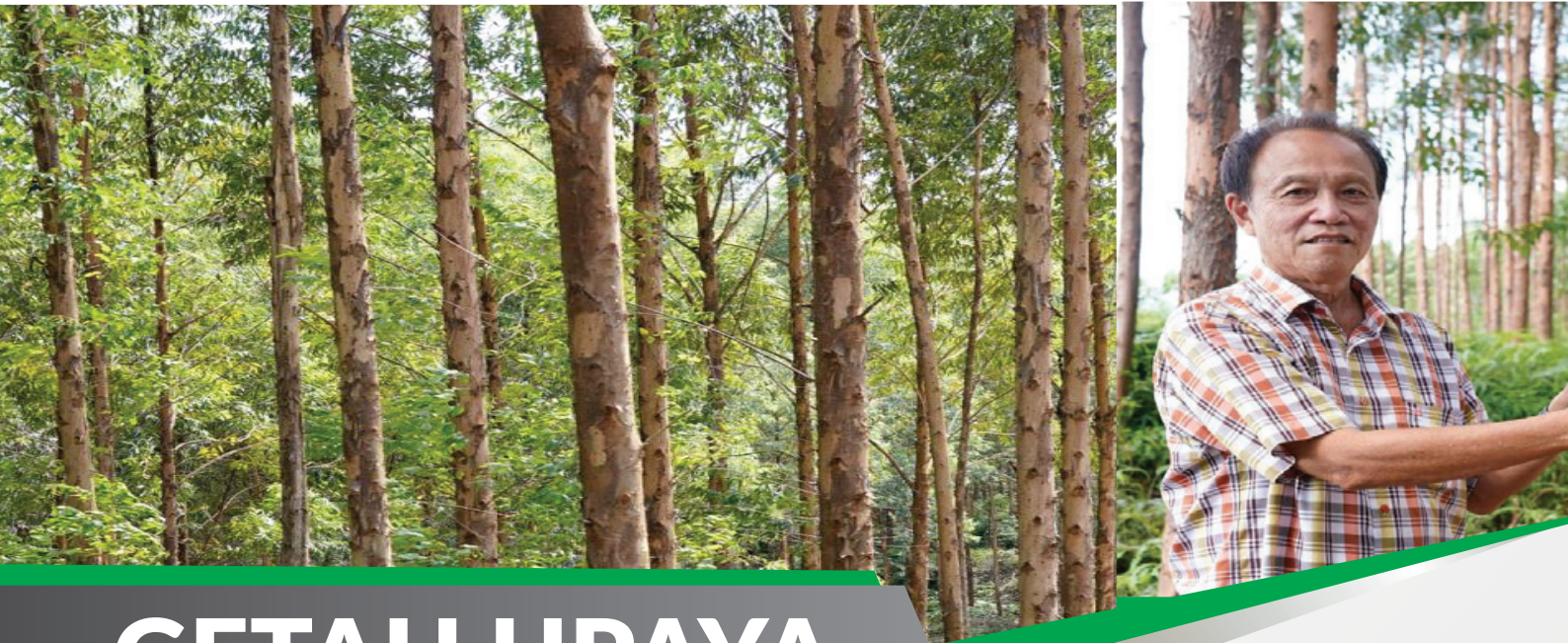
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GETAH UPAYA SDN. BHD.

Prepared by : Zanariah Othman

Getah Upaya Sdn. Bhd. was incorporated on 9 October 2012, founded by Dato' Cheah Keng Meng and Mr. Cheah Eu Jin, who have extensive experience in the timber industry spanning over 40 years. Based in Ipoh, Perak, Getah Upaya Sdn. Bhd. was originally a timber company but has since expanded into forest plantation and tissue culture. Getah Upaya Sdn. Bhd. is also a member of the Perak Timber Trade Association and the Malaysian Wood Industries Association (MWIA).

Getah Upaya Sdn. Bhd. services include setting up new forest plantations from producing fast-growing forest tree species seedlings or saplings and earthwork site preparation to planting the trees, managing the plantation and harvesting the trees upon maturity. The company also deals with related government agencies such as Forestry Department of Malaysia and Department of Environment of Malaysia.

Getah Upaya Sdn. Bhd. believes that Industrial Tree Plantations (ITP) plays a pivotal role in reducing pressure on natural forests. Productivity in ITP will greatly increase compared to degraded forests, thereby increasing the supply of raw materials to sustain timber industries in the long term.



Eucalyptus 4 years old



Eucalyptus 2 years old



Transfer room



Autoclave for sterilization



Culture room

Current Project

Forest Plantation in Sungkai, Perak

Getah Upaya Sdn. Bhd. obtained approval in 2012 from the Perak State Forestry Department to convert a 5000-acre parcel of degraded forest in Besout Forest Reserve, Sungkai, Perak into a forest plantation. Since then, they have successfully planted various fast-growing species of forest trees such as Timber Latex Clone Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*), Kelempayan/Laran (*Neolamarckia cadamba*), Eucalyptus hybrid (*Eucalyptus urophylla* x *Eucalyptus grandis*) and Batai (*Falcataria falcata*).

The main fast-growing species planted here is the Eucalyptus hybrid (*Eucalyptus urophylla* x *Eucalyptus grandis*). Getah Upaya Sdn. Bhd. is collaborating with MWIA to promote the planting of Eucalyptus trees in Malaysia. MWIA has signed an MOU with Guangxi Forest Research Institute which provides technical support as well as assistance in importing Eucalyptus seedlings into Malaysia. The Guangxi Forestry Department is also helping to monitor the growth and well-being of the trees.

The Eucalyptus hybrid was selected to be planted in a large-scale plantation because it is categorised under fast-growing species. It also possesses the ability to survive under poor soil conditions. Hence, the Malaysian climate is suitable for the Eucalyptus to grow and flourish. After a year of planting, it has a diameter of 70mm and a height of 7m. This species can also coppice and does not require much replanting. The trees can be harvested in about 5-7 years during which they would be considered mature enough to be produced as veneer for the plywood industry.

Tissue Culture Lab

Rimba Tissue Culture Sdn. Bhd. (RTCSB) is a subsidiary of Getah Upaya Sdn. Bhd. and it manages a tissue culture lab. RTCSB was incorporated in 2020 and previously was operating under a different entity. The main objective of establishing this lab is to support the development of ITP projects in Malaysia. RTCSB has successfully cultivated Kelempayan/Laran (*Neolamarckia cadamba*), Eucalyptus hybrid (*Eucalyptus urophylla* x *Eucalyptus grandis*) and Acacia hybrid (*Acacia mangium* x *Acacia auriculiformis*). Currently, RTCSB can produce 300,000 – 500,000 seedlings monthly depending on the order received.

RTCSB has been awarded BioNexus Status by the Bioeconomy Corporation under the purview of Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).



Eucalyptus



Acacia Hybrid



Kelampayan Merah



Kelampayan Putih



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CELEBRATION OF WORLD BAMBOO DAY MALAYSIA 2024 (WBD 2024) & NATIONAL BAMBOO SEMINAR

Prepared by : Norliwati Mohd Yusof

World Bamboo Day (WBD) is celebrated annually all over the world to increase the awareness of bamboo and to highlight its benefits to the environment, the economy and the community. It also acts as a platform for networking and disseminating findings and research outputs on bamboo.

WBD Malaysia 2024 was celebrated at Tadam Hill Resorts, Banting, Selangor on 26 September 2024. The event was launched by YB Datuk Seri Johari bin Abdul Ghani, Minister of Plantation and Commodities. In his speech, YB Datuk Seri Johari noted that the agricommodity sector had generated a national export income of RM160.45 billion in 2023. Agricommodity, referring to the activities under the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK), includes the sub-sectors of palm oil, rubber, timber, cocoa, pepper and kenaf. The sector continues to be one of the biggest contributors to Malaysia's export earnings and plays a significant role in the country's socio-economic development. As such, KPK will continue to strengthen the development and progress of the agricommodity sector in order to achieve the National Agricommodity Policy (DAKN 2030) targets.



Minister of Plantation and Commodities,
YB Datuk Seri Johari delivering his speech



Participants during the event

Bamboo Shapers in Langkawi, Model Bamboo Farms with the Sabah Handicraft Center in Sabah and the Bamboo One Stop Centre at Tadam Hill Resorts.

The Bamboo National Seminar was held during the event. Six (6) papers were presented by prominent speakers and representatives from the bamboo industry. The topics presented were:

1. Effect of Treatment on Bamboo by Puan Norhazaedawati Baharuddin from Malaysia Timber Industry Board (MTIB)
2. The Potential of Bamboo as an Alternative Raw Material of Molded Products for Green Industrial Use by YBrs. Dr. Rafidah Jalil from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
3. Sustainable Social Enterprise: UMK's Integrated Bamboo Processing Initiative by YBrs. Prof Madya Dr. Wan Mohd Faizal Wan Ishak from Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)
4. Bamboo Plantation by Encik Abdul Hamid Md Yusof from Clarity Crest Sdn Bhd
5. Biochar: Criteria and Biomass Sources Methods & Quality by YBhg. Dato' Lai Yeng Fock from Tadam Hill Resorts
6. Bamboo Industry Landscape: Key Findings of the Value Chain Study by Puan Rohana Abd Rahman from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)

The exhibition in WBD Malaysia 2024 was participated by eleven (11) exhibitors comprising FGV Agri Services Sdn Bhd, Clarity Crest Sdn Bhd, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Tadom Hill Resorts, Alabambu Art Trading, Berlian Timur Enterprise, IDR. A. Rahim M. Ismail Bamboo Craft, Institute of Tropical Forestry and Forest Products (INTROP) UPM, University of Tuanku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Perbadanan Kemajuan Kraftangan Malaysia and the Malaysian Bamboo Society (MBS). Other programmes held during the event included the launch of the book entitled *BULUH Senibina dan Binaan Dalaman* by MBS, the exchange of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tadom Hill Resort and community farming entrepreneurs, a bamboo water rafting competition and an angklung music performance.



Launch of the *BULUH Senibina dan Binaan Dalaman* by the Malaysian Bamboo Society

About 400 participants from the timber industry, government agencies and higher learning institutions attended the event.



MoU exchange between Tadom Hill Resort and farming community entrepreneurs



Bamboo water rafting competition

AUGUST 2024

Total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in August 2024 increased by 4% in value totalled at RM1.95 billion from RM1.86 billion in the previous month. Similarly, the cumulative exports for the period of January – August 2024 increased by 9%, valued at RM15.2 billion over RM14.0 billion in the previous corresponding period.

In Europe, a decline in completed housing is expected in the coming years. Euroconstruct forecasts a decline of 8.5% (1.6 million apartments) for 2024. A decline of 15% is expected for Germany. Housing construction is declining even more significantly in the Nordic countries. In Finland and Sweden, the number of completed units is expected to roughly halve within a year. In Norway, the expected decline is 22%. Positive signals are coming from Poland (+4%), Ireland (+10%) and Spain (+15%). The completion value for 2022 represents the peak of a strong recovery in residential construction in Europe. The almost 1.85 million apartments achieved at that time were last exceeded in 2009.

Based on this value, the losses expected up to and including 2026 are likely to be 17% or 318,000 residential units. In percentage terms, Sweden (-48%), Finland (-45%), Germany (-41%) and France and Austria (-36% each) are likely to record the largest declines compared to 2022. Due to the different market sizes, however, the volume losses in the period 2023 to 2026 are concentrated in France (-136,000 residential units) and Germany (-120,000). This is followed by Sweden (-33,000) and Austria (-21,000) at a considerable distance. On the other hand, significant quantitative increases are also expected for Spain (+21,000 housing units) as well as for Ireland and Great Britain (+8,000 each). In the European housing sector, new construction will lose importance in 2024, with a share of 37%. In 2006, it was 58%. Construction activity is increasingly focused on the maintenance and modernisation of existing housing.

SAWNTIMBER

Total export of sawntimber in August 2024 increased by 1% in value but decreased by 13% in volume to 77,603 m³ totalling at RM173.6 million as compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative exports for the period of January-August 2024 decreased by 4% in volume and 8% in value to 671,929 m³ totalling at RM1.4 billion over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to the EU for the month were recorded at 5,228 m³, an increase of 52% as compared to 3,434 m³ in the previous month. The Netherlands as the main buyer increased buying by 52% to 2,528 m³ from 1,659 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to Belgium also increased by 132% to 819 m³ followed by Germany with an increase of 8% to 626 m³ respectively. In other parts of Europe, exports to the UK increased by 61% to 896 m³ from 557 m³ in the previous month.

Total export to South Asia decreased by 14% to 11,344 m³ from 13,213 m³ as recorded in the previous month. India as the main buyer from South Asia also decreased buying by 16% to 6,527 m³ from 7,798 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Similarly, exports to Maldives also decreased by 30% to 2,375 m³ whilst Sri Lanka increased purchases by 13% to 1,429 m³.

Total export to West Asia decreased by 41% to 11,562 m³ from 19,501 m³ as recorded in the previous month. The UAE as the main buyer decreased imports by 24% to 4,873 m³ from 6,431 m³ as recorded last month. Likewise, exports to Iraq also decreased by 19% to 1,757 m³ compared to 2,161 m³ in the previous month followed by Yemen with a decrease of 54% to 1,513 m³.

Shipments to East Asia increased slightly to 24,207 m³ from 24,150 m³ in July 2024. China as the main buyer decreased purchases by 17% to 14,009 m³ from 16,935 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Japan increased by 14% to 2,799 m³ from 2,450 m³ last month followed by Taiwan with an increase of 67% to 5,659 m³ compared to the previous month.

Meanwhile buying from ASEAN decreased by 26% to 18,089 m³ from 24,472 m³ as registered in the previous month. Thailand as the main buyer in ASEAN decreased its intake by 32% to 5,737 m³ from 8,446 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Exports of sawntimber to Singapore also decreased by 40% to 5,918 m³ whilst the Philippines increased imports by 12% to 5,491 m³ from 4,896 m³ last month.

Moving to the Africa region, exports to Africa increased by 44% to 3,511 m³ compared to 2,434 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, demand from South Africa also increased by 55% to 2,860 m³ from 1,852 m³ whilst Mauritius decreased imports by 51% to 203 m³ from 413 m³ in the previous month.

Elsewhere, export to North America increased by 250% to 2,092 m³ from 598 m³ in the previous month. The USA as the main buyer from North America increased its intake by 382% to 1,656 m³ from 343 m³ followed by Canada with an increase of 71% to 436 m³ from 254 m³ in the previous month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, export to Australia increased by 2% to 661 m³ from 649 m³ whilst exports to New Zealand decreased by 85% to 12 m³ from 82 m³.

The average FOB price of sawntimber increased by 16% to RM2,237 per m³ from RM1,927 per m³ in the previous month while price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands decreased by 14% to RM3,234 per m³ from RM3,777 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at RM3,265 per m³, an increase of 42% from RM2,297 per m³ in the previous month.

China's economy is stabilising after a flurry of modest policy measures, including the Notice on Several Measures to Promote Home Furnishing Consumption, which has resulted in Chinese factory activities increasing for the first time in six months. In positive signs for the global timber market, China's Global Timber Index (GTI) which measures timber activity across seven pilot countries registered 52.6% for August, the second consecutive month the index exceeded the 50% threshold for growth. According to the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics, the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 50.2 in September from 49.7, correcting a half-year decline in manufacturing activity. The Chinese economy sagged after a burst in early 2023 when its zero-tolerance COVID policies were lifted, and its slowdown significantly impacted global timber markets. As the world's largest consumption market, meeting 18% of global demand and 71% of Asian demand last year, it has the highest reliance on imports – its share of imported wood is 55%, and this includes sawn timber, logs, pulp and paper.

PLYWOOD

Export of plywood in August 2024 recorded an increase of 12% in volume at 105,860 m³ and 10% increase in value at RM223.2 million as compared to the previous month. Similarly, the cumulative exports for the period of January – August 2024 showed an increase of 11% in volume with 753,227 m³ and 5% in value totalling at RM1.7 billion over the previous corresponding period. The EU region recorded an increasing trend for plywood import by 16% from 251 m³ to 290 m³. The Netherlands and Ireland resumed their buying with 42 m³ and 86 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Denmark didn't make any purchase for the month. In other parts of Europe, export recorded an increase of 437% to 7,086 m³ from 1,321 m³ in the previous month. Plywood purchases by the UK increased by 114% to 1,828 m³, followed by Turkiye with tremendous improvement

of 1028% at 5,252 m³.

Moving to the East Asia market, volume increased by 7% to 76,378 m³ from 71,356 m³ in July. Japan as the largest importer from the region increased its buying by 13% to 66,989 m³ from 59,547 m³. South Korea and Taiwan reduced imports by 31% to 3,315 m³ and 15% to 5,349 m³ respectively. In the ASEAN region, import increased by 11% from 3,340 m³ to 3,690 m³. Plywood export to Thailand and the Philippines recorded a growth of 99% to 1,664 m³ and 27% to 340 m³ each. Meanwhile, Singapore dropped its orders by 31% to 1,124 m³.

In the South Asia region, plywood purchase rose by 42% from 1,394 m³ to 1,911 m³. India increased imports by 58% to 1,739 m³ while Maldives reduced import volume by 18% to 146 m³. The West Asia region recorded a drop in import of 34% to 4,519 m³ from 6,893 m³ in the previous month. Import performance in Yemen and Oman reduced by 5% to 3,527 m³ and 86% to 185 m³ respectively. Saudi Arabia didn't make any purchase for the month.

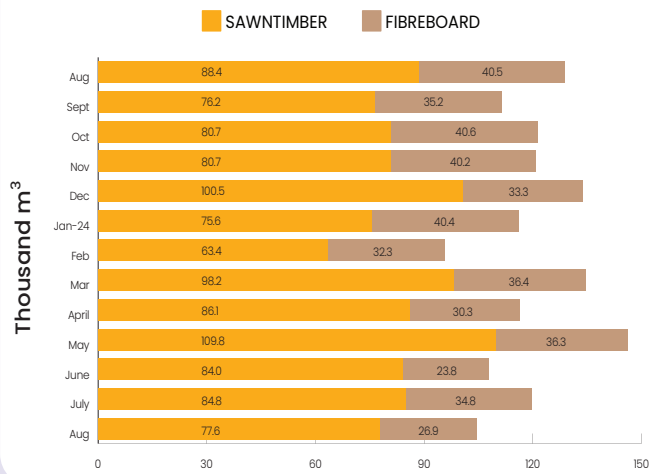
In the Africa region, plywood export decreased by 4% from 388 m³ to 372 m³. The North America region showed an increase of 35% from 6,850 m³ to 9,275 m³. The USA as the main buyer increased purchase by 1% to 6,062 m³. This was followed by Mexico with an increase of 332% to 2,785 m³ and Canada by 137% to 429 m³. Plywood export to the Oceania/Pacific region also recorded an increase of 1% to 2,340 m³ from 2,323 m³. Australia increased its purchase by 13% to 2,234 m³ while New Zealand reduced the volume by 78% to 64 m³ each.

The FOB price of plywood for August 2024 was at RM2,109 per m³, a decrease of 3% from RM2,162 per m³ from the previous month.

The construction industry in Turkiye to grow by 5.4% in real terms in 2024, supported by rising building approvals, coupled with public and private investment in industrial and energy projects. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), the total floor area of building permits issued rose by 33.4% in Q1 2024, following an overall annual growth of 14.9% in 2023. The Turkish government unveiled the 2024 rail programme, which includes the development of 131km of new double track alignments, civil works for the 498 km Ankara-Izmir high-speed line, work on the 433 km Ankara-Istanbul high speed line, design work and early construction in the corridor connecting Konya, Karaman, Nigde, Mersin and Adana, and the electrification of 2,270 km of existing route by the end of 2028.

Malaysia: Export of Sawntimber and MDF

August 2023 – August 2024



VENEER

Export of veneer in August 2024 increased in volume by 47% to 5,711 m³ but decreased in value by 3% worth RM12.1 million as compared to the previous month. The cumulative exports for January – August 2024 showed an increment in both volume and value by 45% to 36,538 m³ and 41% to RM74.2 million over the previous corresponding period.

ASEAN recorded a decrease in veneer import by 95% from 376 m³ to 20 m³ last month. Viet Nam and Singapore reduced their purchases by 45% to 17 m³ and 90% to 3 m³. In East Asia, export increased by 51% from 5,017 m³ to 7,569 m³. China and Taiwan improved their veneer imports by 52% and 340% to 5,600 m³ and 1,099 m³ respectively. However, South Korea reduced its import of 30% to 590 m³. Similarly, the South Asia region recorded an increase in import of 42% to 272 m³ from 191 m³ in the previous month. Veneer purchases by India and Bangladesh increased by 58% to 210 m³ and 3% to 61 m³ each.

Moving to North America, veneer imports recorded an improvement of 350% to 378 m³ with purchases being from Canada. South Africa resumed purchases with 167 m³ while in the Oceania/Pacific region, no record was made for the month.

The average FOB price for veneer decreased by 34% from RM2,180 per m³ to RM1,442 per m³ as compared to the previous month.

The construction industry in Canada is expected to grow by 3.9% to reach CAD222.11 billion in 2024. Despite near-term challenges in certain

construction sectors, Canada's construction industry is poised for significant growth. The industry is expected to grow steadily over the next four quarters, with the growth momentum continuing over the forecast period. A CAGR of 3.7% is projected during 2024–2028, with the country's construction output expected to reach CAD256.42 billion by 2028, indicating substantial growth potential. The Canadian construction industry is at a pivotal moment, characterised by cautious growth, evolving market demands and significant challenges. As the sector adapts to economic fluctuations and embraces technological advancements, stakeholders must proactively address labour shortages and promote sustainable practices.

MEDIUM DENSITY
FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in August 2024 recorded a 23% decrease in volume at 26,940 m³ and 25% in value at RM52.4 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, the cumulative export for the period of January – August 2024 recorded a decrease in volume by 16% to 261,294 m³ and decrease of 11% in value totalling at RM495.1 million as compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Export to ASEAN decreased by 1% from 5,919 m³ to 5,856 m³ in the previous month. Indonesia and Viet Nam reduced their imports by 10% and 24% to 1,310 m³ and 636 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, the Philippines increased buying by 31% to 3,819 m³ from 2,912 m³.

Elsewhere, East Asia's purchase of MDF decreased by 38% from 13,449 m³ to 8,332 m³ in the previous month. Import of MDF from Japan and China recorded a decrease of 37% and 99% to 7,453 m³ and 1 m³ each. Taiwan however increased its MDF import by 32% to 832 m³. Moving to the South Asia market, export improved by 17% from 2,108 m³ to 2,461 m³. Export performance to India depleted by 13% to 840 m³ while Pakistan increased import volume by 42% to 1,406 m³.

Export to the West Asia region recorded a decrease of 42% from 7,491 m³ to 4,383 m³ compared to the previous month. Yemen increased buying by 177% to 3,789 m³ but the UAE reduced its import by 67% to 594 m³. France and the UK resumed their imports of MDF with 29 m³ and 42 m³ respectively.

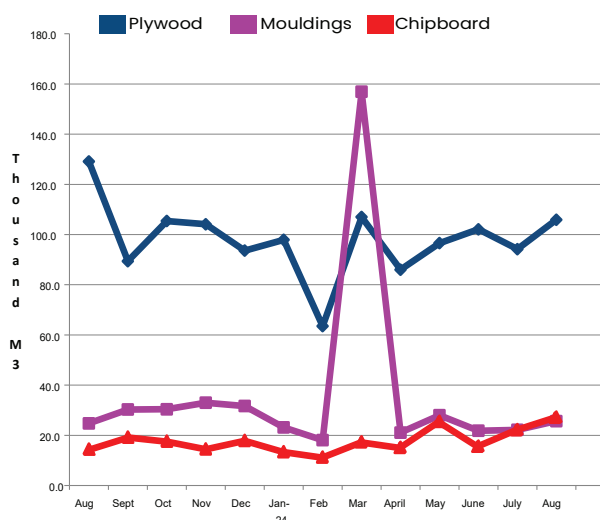
Export to the Oceania/Pacific region increased by 27% to 2,471 m³ from 1,953 m³ in the

previous month with purchases from Australia amounting to 2,326 m³ while New Zealand resumed its purchase with 87 m³ for the month. MDF import in North America showed a decrease of 8% from 3,411 m³ to 3,150 m³ compared to the previous month. MDF purchases by the USA and Canada decreased by 17% to 2,095 m³ and 21% to 392 m³ each. Mexico improved import by 74% to 662 m³. In the Africa region, MDF purchases recorded a decrease of 31% to 184 m³ with purchases from South Africa. Central America and South America regions didn't make any purchases for the month.

The average FOB price of MDF decreased by 3% to RM1,946 per m³ from RM1,998 per m³ in the previous month.

Australia's construction industry is showing resilience and growth across various sectors despite challenges like labour shortages, rising costs and supply chain disruptions. Investments in infrastructure and adoption of innovative technologies are driving sustainable development, positioning the industry for continued expansion amidst evolving regulatory landscapes and shifting priorities. The construction industry in Australia is expected to grow by 6.9% to reach AUD193.20 billion in 2024. A CAGR of 6.2% is projected during 2024-2028, with the Australia's construction output expected to reach AUD246.06 billion by 2028, indicating substantial growth potential.

Malaysia: Export of Major Timber Product
August 2023 – August 2024



MOULDINGS

Export of mouldings for the month increased in volume by 16% to 25,696 m³ and in value by 20% worth RM87.6 million from the previous month, July 2024. Meanwhile, for the cumulative period of January – August 2024, export of mouldings both increased in volume by 83% to 317,041 m³ and value by 13% worth RM636.3 million over the same period in 2023.

Shipments to ASEAN decreased by 18% to 1,088 m³ for the month from 1,333 m³ in July 2024. Exports to Singapore also decreased by 39% to 715 m³ whilst exports to Viet Nam increased by 220% to 269 m³ respectively. Exports to the East Asia region increased by 54% to 2,625 m³ for the month. Demand from Japan increased by 80% to 1,544 m³ whilst exports to South Korea decreased by 25% to 559 m³ respectively. Moving to South Asia countries, export to India increased by 1196% to 324 m³ from 25 m³ in the previous month, while Sri Lanka didn't make any purchase for the month.

Export to the EU bloc for the month was recorded at 7,898 m³, an increase of 27% over 6,241 m³ in the previous month. The Netherlands also increased its demand by 10% to 4,976 m³ from 4,546 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, intake from France and Germany increased by 41% to 582 m³ and 221% to 961 m³ respectively. Moving on to other countries in Europe, exports to the UK decreased by 33% to 512 m³ compared to 764 m³ in the previous month whilst Turkey didn't make any purchase for the month.

Export to North America increased by 8% to 11,018 m³ from 10,246 m³ in the previous month. The USA as a major buyer from North America also increased its intake by 4% to 10,509 m³ from 10,105 m³ followed by Canada with an increase of 50% to 213 m³ from 142 m³ in the previous month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, export to Australia also increased by 49% to 1,765 m³ from 1,183 m³ in the previous month whilst Guam didn't make any purchase for the month.

Elsewhere, export to Mauritius decreased by 66% to 72 m³ from 214 m³ in the previous month. Meanwhile, South Africa increased buying by 481% to 279 m³ from 48 m³ in the previous month. The average FOB unit value for mouldings increased by 4% to RM3,410 per m³ compared to RM3,281 per m³ in the previous month.

The U.S. Department of Commerce

announced the final determination of a combined anti-subsidy and anti-dumping duty rate of 14.54% in the fifth annual review of unfairly traded Canadian softwood lumber imports into the United States. This United States government ruling substantiates that Canada continues to subsidise and dump its softwood lumber products in the United States, distorting the U.S. softwood lumber market to the detriment of U.S. sawmills, their employees and communities. The increased levels of unfair trade confirmed by the Commerce Department makes it clear that Canadian unfair trade practices are making a bad situation worse by accelerating and deepening market downcycles, resulting in today's extreme low lumber prices, forcing U.S. mill closures and layoffs.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Exports of BJC for August 2024 increased by 10% in volume and 7% in value to 13.4 million kg worth RM126.5 million from last month, July 2024. Similarly, exports of BJC for the cumulative period of January – August 2024 jumped by 7% in volume and 4% in value to 90.1 million kg worth RM865.9 million from the previous corresponding period in 2023.

Demand from the ASEAN region decreased by 11% to RM95.9 million with Singapore as the highest buyer reducing its intake to RM70.1 million, a decrease of 18% from RM85.7 million in the previous corresponding period. However, exports to Viet Nam and Thailand grew by 64% to RM9.4 million and 58% to RM9.8 million respectively.

Meanwhile, exports to East Asia countries expanded by 5% to RM61.7 million over RM59.0 million in the corresponding period in 2023. Japan recorded as the highest buyer with an increase of 10% to RM43.4 million followed by China with an increase of 6% to RM8.7 million whilst Taiwan decreased its intake by 7% to RM6.1 million.

Intake from South Asia countries increased by 32% to RM29.5 million with India as the largest buyer expanding its buying by 26% to RM18.0 million. Similarly, Sri Lanka increased intake by 499% to RM4.6 million whilst Maldives decreased its demand to RM4.3 million for the cumulative period of January – August 2024. Moving on to the West Asia countries, the UAE recorded a decrease of 14% to RM2.1 million from RM2.4 million over the same cumulative period in 2023. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia dropped its intake by 27% to RM158,468 whilst Kuwait resumed its

buying with RM610,333.

Moving on to the EU bloc, exports of BJC decreased by 10% worth RM162.5 million from RM180.6 million in the same corresponding period in 2023. Exports to the Netherlands grew by 84% to RM58.8 million from RM31.9 million in the previous month. Exports to Belgium reduced by 14% worth RM46.7 million followed by France with a decrease of 3% worth RM12.8 million. Meanwhile, exports to the UK increased by 20% to RM98.1 million from RM82.1 million. Similarly, exports to both Norway and Türkiye increased by 386% to RM8.5 million and by 2% to RM0.8 million respectively.

As the largest buyer of BJC for the period of January – August 2024, demand from North America region worth RM236.3 million, an increase of 12% from RM210.4 million in the same period 2023. Exports to the USA increased by 19% to RM231.5 million from RM194.5 million in the same period in 2023. Exports to Canada dramatically increased by 163% to RM4.6 million from RM1.8 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Meanwhile, Mexico reduced its intake by 99% to RM0.2 million from RM14.2 million in the corresponding period in 2023 followed by Uruguay also with a decrease of 9% to RM0.8 million from RM1.0 million over the same period in 2023.

Shifting to the Oceania/Pacific region, exports dropped slightly to RM161.1 million with Australia as the largest buyer recording an increase of 3% to RM145.8 million. Export to New Zealand was down by 5% to RM12.3 million whilst Western Samoa increased import by 12% worth RM0.9 million. Elsewhere, exports to the Africa region dropped by 2% to RM7.8 million. Intake from both South Africa and Mauritius increased by 23% to RM4.0 million and by 49% to RM1.5 million respectively. Meanwhile, Seychelles decreased its intake by 46% to RM1.1 million for the cumulative period of January – August 2024.



FURNITURE

Export of wooden furniture for the month of August 2024 increased by 16% to RM903.3 million from RM777.2 million in July 2024. Similarly, when compared year-on-year, exports of wooden furniture have increased by 12% to RM6.4 billion from RM5.7 billion in its corresponding period in 2023.

For the period of January – August 2024, export of wooden furniture to ASEAN dropped by 3% worth RM802.1 million from RM824.6 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Exports to Singapore and Indonesia decreased by 7% to RM472.5 million and by 12% to RM67.9 million, respectively. However, export to the Philippines grew by 26% to RM178.8 million for the cumulative period of January – August 2024.

Moving to the East Asia region, exports dropped by 12% to RM379.1 million from RM431.6 million year-on-year in 2023. Japan remained the highest buyer with export valued at RM291.0 million, with a decrease of 12%. Similarly, export to South Korea decreased by 7% to RM23.1 million. However, export to Taiwan grew by 4% to RM32.1 million over its corresponding period in 2023.

Exports to West Asia expanded by 7% to RM340.0 million from RM318.7 million in the corresponding period in 2023. The UAE remains the largest buyer in the region albeit with a decline of 8% to RM155.4 million. Nevertheless, exports to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait grew by 9% to RM116.3 million and by 20% worth RM15.6 million, respectively for the mentioned period.

Moving to the South Asia region, export of wooden furniture to the region improved by 39% to RM110.0 million for the period of January – August 2024. Amongst South Asia countries, India recorded the highest intake with export value worth RM98.3 million and an increase in intake by 37%. Meanwhile, export to Maldives grew by 30% to RM8.4 million and Sri Lanka increased its buying significantly by 658% worth RM1.6 million.

Export to the Central Asia region declined by 10% to RM2.6 million with export to Kazakhstan improved by 14% to RM2.1 million. Armenia reduced its demand by 68% to RM0.2 million while Tajikistan increased its intake by 16% to RM0.3 million for the cumulative period of January–August 2024.

Exports to the European Union recorded an expansion of 18% to RM257.9 million from RM218.1 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Export to France increased by 13% worth RM27.5 million,

followed by Germany with exports increased by 20% to RM29.4 million and Spain with an increase of 51% worth RM28.1 million. In other parts of Europe, the United Kingdom as the largest buyer recorded an increase of 18% to RM298.5 million from RM254.4 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Similarly, exports to Türkiye and Georgia increased by 47% to RM12.3 million and by 31% to RM7.6 million respectively.

Export to the Oceania/Pacific region improved by 23% to RM384.4 million from RM313.0 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Australia remained as the top buyer in the archipelago region with export value worth RM334.8 million and an improvement of 20%. Similarly, both exports to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea expanded by 17% to RM25.1 million and by 105% to RM10.6 million respectively.

Moving to the Central America region, export of wooden furniture increased by 32% to RM38.3 million from RM28.9 million year-on-year. Both Panama and Guatemala recorded an increase of sale by 26% to RM10.8 million and by 15% worth RM7.2 million respectively. Similarly, export to El Salvador grew by 43% to RM7.6 million from RM5.3 million in January–August 2023.

Meanwhile, exports to the North America region advanced by 17% to RM3.5 billion from RM3.0 billion year-on-year. As Malaysia's largest wooden furniture buyer, demand from USA improved by 15% to RM3.2 billion from RM2.8 billion over its corresponding period in 2023. Similarly, export to Canada multiplied by 43% to RM274.4 million while Puerto Rico reduced its demand by 9% to RM35.6 million.

Export of wooden furniture to the South America region recorded an increase of 37% worth RM77.3 million from RM56.4 million over its corresponding period in January – August 2023. Export to Chile improved by 62% to RM44.4 million from RM27.4 million, followed by Peru with an increase of 22% to RM13.7 million. Similarly, export to Uruguay increased by 16% to RM4.5 million for the cumulative period in 2024.

Moving to the Africa region, export to the region improved by 10% to RM107.3 million with South Africa garnering the largest market share with RM34.1 million. Intake from South Africa recorded an increase of 57% from RM21.8 million in its corresponding period in 2023. This was followed by Reunion Islands, with recorded sales of RM9.6 million with export increased by 9% from the previous corresponding period. However, export to

Kenya declined by 27% to RM9.6 million from RM13.1 million year-on-year.

Rattan furniture shipments for August 2024 recorded an increase of 27% valued at RM6.0 million while based on year-on-year, export of rattan furniture for the cumulative period of January – August 2024 decreased by 11% from RM42.7 million from RM48.0 million in the same period in 2023.

Exports to ASEAN member countries were recorded at RM5.5 million, an increase of 31% for the mentioned period of January – August 2024 from RM4.2 million in the same period in 2023. The highest buyer, the Philippines recorded sales of RM3.2 million with an increase of 27%. Similarly, export to Singapore grew by 34% to RM1.6 million while export to Thailand increased by 88% to RM0.6 million.

However, export of the East Asia region recorded a decline of 74% worth RM1.1 million with Japan reducing its intake by 41% to RM0.6 million. Similarly, exports to China and Taiwan decreased by 91% to RM0.3 million and by 75% to RM48,736 respectively. Moving on to South Asia countries, India was recorded as the highest buyer of rattan furniture worth RM0.6 million despite a reduction in its buying by 72%. Meanwhile, Tajikistan resumed its intake to 122,721 m3 for the cumulative period.

Export to the West Asia region increased by 20% to RM2.8 million with the largest buying nation of rattan furniture in the region, the UAE increasing its intake by 58% to RM1.4 million, while intake from Saudi Arabia reduced by 32% to RM0.7 million. Meanwhile, Iraq resumed its intake with RM174,762 for the month.

Moving to the European Union bloc, export dropped by 4% to RM6.9 million with France being the largest buyer amongst EU countries. Export to France increased by 9% to RM1.8 million from RM1.7 million over the same period in 2023. Similarly, exports to Ireland and Romania grew by 24% and by 117%, both with an export value of RM1.0 million. Moving to other countries in Europe, demand from the group decreased by 16% to RM4.9 million with the UK being the largest buyer in the region. The UK dropped its buying by 21% to RM4.1 million, while Georgia resumed its buying to RM0.2 million. Meanwhile, intake from Russia dropped by 15% to RM0.4 million for the period of January – August 2024.

Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific archipelago region dropped by 48% to RM2.1 million from RM4.0 million over the same period in 2023.

Australia recorded a decline in intake by 47% to RM1.8 million, while both Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa increased their buying by 95% to RM71,217 and by 62% to RM66,952 respectively.

Exports to the North America region increased by 2% to RM17.2 million from RM16.9 million over the same period in 2023. The USA being the largest buyer of rattan furniture recorded a drop in intake by 11% to RM13.2 million. However, export to Canada increased by 144% to RM1.6 million while Mexico resumed its intake with RM0.7 million. Meanwhile, Chile and Uruguay increased their intake to RM0.6 million and RM0.1 million respectively. Panama increased its intake by 149% worth RM18,756 for the period of January to August 2024. Moving to the Africa region, South Africa increased its buying by 50% to RM0.2 million, while Ghana resumed its buying with RM0.3 million and Kenya recorded purchases worth RM79,283.

During his campaign, President-elect Mr. Donald Trump floated several ways he could increase tariffs on other countries. These included a 10% to 20% tariff on all imports, a 60% to 100% additional tariff on Chinese imports and even a 25% tariff on Mexican imports. Economists and retail groups are concerned that the increased tariffs would increase inflation, and the cost of goods will go up where it will be passed to the consumers. Industry players stated that they have shifted his sources of order from China to other countries not affected currently by a tariff such as Viet Nam and Malaysia. The tariff hike would be disruptive and the idea of moving production of furniture to the USA would be challenging especially in terms of labour and cost. The U.S. presidential election also is causing concern in the shipping and logistics sector, as shippers are likely to frontload volumes in anticipation of potential future tariffs.



CAPITALISING MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN CONTINENT

Background

Africa, the second largest continent (after Asia), covers about one-fifth of the total land surface of Earth. The continent is bound in the west by the Atlantic Ocean, in the north by the Mediterranean Sea, in the east by the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, and in the south by the Atlantic and Indian oceans. With about 30.3 million km² (11.7 million square miles) including adjacent islands, Africa covers approximately 20% of Earth's land area and 6% of its total surface area. With 1.5 billion people as of 2024, it accounts for about 18% of the world's human population and is projected to increase to 2.5 billion by 2050. The Africa region has abundant natural resources, but much of its economy has remained predominantly agricultural, and subsistence farming still engages more than 60% of the population.



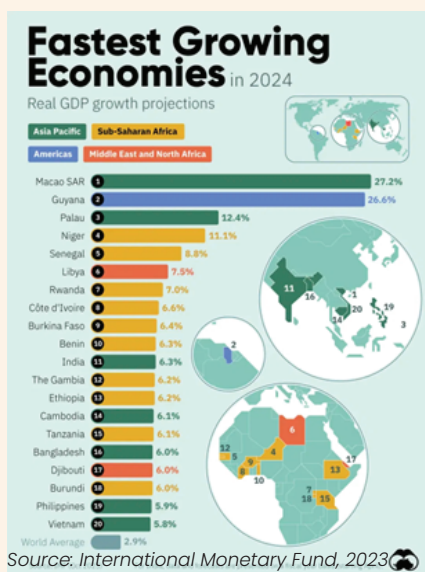
Economy

The economy of the Africa region is based on the trade, industry, agriculture, and human resources of the continent. In the last decade, growth in sales, commodities, services and manufacturing have also contributed to its economic advancement. The Africa region, which comprises of 54 countries in West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa, is expected to reach a combined GDP of USD29 trillion by 2050. The World Bank expects that most African countries will reach "middle income" status (defined as at least USD1,025 per person a year) by 2025 if current growth rates continue. Meanwhile, IMF reported that after four turbulent years, the outlook for Africa is gradually improving with its GDP growing from 3.4% in 2023 to 3.8% in 2024 and to continue to reach 4.0% in 2025.

As one of the top timber producing countries in the African region, GDP growth in South Africa decelerated from 1.9% in 2022 to 0.6% in 2023, due to persistent electricity shortages, transport sector constraints, and lower international prices for gold and platinum group metals. African Development Bank Group (AFDB) reported that South Africa's growth outlook in 2024 is weakly positive with GDP at 1.3% in 2024 and 1.6% in 2025 due to investments in infrastructure construction, fiscal stability and recovery in public and private consumption. At the same time, real GDP growth for Mauritius was 4.9%, driven by construction as major social housing and public transportation projects are ramped up and by the recovery of tourism to pre-pandemic levels. In 2024-2026, Kenya's GDP moderated at 5.2%. The growth was reinforced by favourable weather conditions for the agricultural sector, a recovery of industries, the resilience of services and the continuous implementation of the government's structural reform agenda.

Forest And Timber Industry

Expanding over 624 million hectares (ha), covering 20.6% of the continent's land area and representing 15.6% percent of the world's forest cover, Africa's forests have a unique role in contributing to the attainment of the aspirations of 'Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want'. Tropical moist forests and woodlands dominate forest formations in Africa. The majority of forest areas are located in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Angola, Zambia, and Mozambique. Africa also has widespread areas extending over hundreds of millions of hectares classified as 'other wooded land', such as the savannas of Eastern Africa and the Sudano-Sahelian region. The agroecological zones consist of Africa's agriculture, human and animal population concentrations. Africa has almost 16% of the world forest area but produces less than 2% of the value of world forest product exports.



In “The Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020–2030)” report published by the African Union Commission in 2020, it is stated that Africa’s forestry sector faces many challenges that constrain its capacity to provide meaningful and sustainable ecosystem services including contributing to socio-economic development. The challenges faced by Africa’s forestry sector include poor forest management and land-use policies; ineffective implementation of good policies; unsustainable forest management; competition for land from the agriculture, mining, livestock and energy sectors and from settlements; land disputes; and political conflict and instability.

Moreover, the forest sector is given a low priority in national plans and resources allocations and is negatively affected by many governance issues. Furthermore, the adverse effects of climate change threaten to further undermine forests and forestry in Africa. For instance, Gabon has banned log exports since 2010 with the aim of encouraging greater in-country wood processing; subsequently, sawntimber production increased

almost fourfold between 2009 and 2022 (from 2.8 million m³ to 10.3 million m³) and roundwood exports fell to almost zero (from 1.7 million m³ in 2009 to 0.01 million m³ in 2022). The Government of Gabon has put in place a range of other policy measures to develop the country’s forest sector. Meanwhile, in Rwanda, the wood-energy sector is reported to contribute about 5% of the country’s gross domestic product revenue and the timber sector contributes about 1.3%. ‘The Global Forest Products Facts and Figures 2023’ report published by FAO stated that Africa was the largest wood fuel-producing region in 2023, accounting for 38% (741 million m³) of global removals. This is because Africa uses around 90% of the wood harvested as fuel for heating and cooking, and most of its wood exports are unprocessed (i.e. roundwood).

Timber production is an important industry in many African countries. Africa has vast forests that provide valuable timber resources. However, timber production must be carefully managed to ensure sustainable practices. Some of the major timber producing countries in Africa are South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Mozambique and Cote d'Ivoire. According to FAO, Africa produced about 740.7 million m³ of wood fuel both non-coniferous and coniferous in 2023, an increase of 2% from 2022. Meanwhile, production of logs and sawntimber in Africa are reduced by 1% to 39.2 million m³ and 12.4 million m³ respectively in 2023. South Africa as one of the largest timber producing countries in the African region recorded 12.7 million m³ of wood fuel, followed by 5.3 million of logs (coniferous and non-coniferous), 2.1 million m³ of sawn timber (coniferous and non-coniferous) and woodchips and 1.9 million m³ of woodchips and particles in 2023. Kenya mainly produced 25.2 million m³ of wood fuel (coniferous and non-coniferous) and 0.65 million m³ of logs (coniferous and non-coniferous) in 2023. The production of timber products in the Africa region from 2019 to 2023 is as projected below:

Africa Region: Production of Timber Products, 2019–2023

(Volume m³)

Product	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wood fuel, non-coniferous	687,568,818	693,930,293	700,926,437	708,522,029	721,253,946
Wood fuel, coniferous	18,500,016	18,702,510	19,176,599	19,352,487	19,480,748
Sawlogs and veneer logs, non-coniferous	28,400,002	28,102,851	29,222,233	30,394,810	30,086,810
Sawlogs and veneer logs, coniferous	6,825,423	9,201,819	9,287,821	9,376,507	9,157,470
Sawnwood, non-coniferous	8,868,057	8,529,481	8,304,429	8,968,474	8,982,764
Sawnwood, coniferous	3,380,091	3,471,668	3,516,975	3,468,646	3,395,492
Wood chips and particles	2,432,094	2,424,256	2,456,123	2,453,846	2,453,846
Veneer sheets	1,501,288	1,260,175	1,474,238	1,476,847	1,635,621
Plywood	1,098,633	1,185,110	1,292,289	1,492,814	1,502,492
Particle board	1,262,011	1,261,011	1,246,598	1,244,321	1,235,805
Medium/high density fibreboard (MDF/HDF)	437,400	437,400	437,400	601,639	626,148

*FAO Estimate Source: FAO Stats

Africa - Export Of Timber And Timber Products

The Africa region timber export showed steady trends from 2019 to 2023. There has also been an awareness in both exporting and importing countries to develop and promote sustainability in this industry. There are many varieties of African wood that are being exported like Azobe, Bilinga, Iroko, Teak, Ebony, Moabi, Ironwood, Mahogany, Rosewood and Sapele. In 2023, the Africa region exported USD4.3 billion of timber and timber products, an increase of 16% from USD3.7 billion as recorded in 2019. Sawntimber, logs and furniture are the top three major timber and timber products exported from Africa. For timber and timber products (under HS44), China, Belgium, Viet Nam, India and France are the top export destinations while Malaysia ranked 23rd in 2023. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, France, Libya, UAE and Iraq are the top export destinations while Malaysia ranked 114th for Africa's export of furniture and parts (HS9403) in 2023.

South Africa, being one of Malaysia's trading partners in timber and timber products recorded an export value of USD635.6 million in 2023 with furniture, logs, sawntimber, particleboard and BJC being the major timber and timber products exported. South Africa mainly exported their timber and timber products (HS44) to Japan, Botswana, Namibia, China and Zimbabwe with Malaysia ranking 34th in export destinations. Meanwhile, for Mauritius, export of timber and timber products were recorded at USD103 million in 2023 with logs, sawntimber and furniture being the major exported items. Mauritius mainly exported its timber and timber products to India, France, the UAE, Indonesia and China with Malaysia ranking 43rd in export destinations. In 2023, Kenya exported USD23.0 million worth of timber and timber products, mainly being furniture, veneer and logs. Its main markets were China, Rwanda, Tanzania, Somalia and USA with Malaysia ranking 82nd in export destinations for timber and timber products. The details for export of timber and timber products for the Africa region are as below:

Africa: Export of Timber and Timber Products, 2019 - 2023

(Value USD '000)

Products	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sawntimber	1,152,033	1,160,929	1,404,071	1,649,686	1,552,109
Logs	872,205	656,684	781,713	855,234	643,782
Furniture	502,410	405,563	476,612	513,188	543,998
Veneer	344,870	299,365	457,540	631,616	531,023
Plywood	115,432	127,781	223,954	213,186	181,659
BJC	118,005	74,527	105,083	100,775	105,527
Particle board	46,017	40,691	61,712	59,448	68,162
Fibreboard	41,085	38,684	49,378	59,020	64,136
Mouldings	40,807	28,765	40,563	43,910	48,820
Wooden frames	6,962	6,530	6,312	2,884	3,873
Others	447,854	388,570	547,986	652,738	537,210
TOTAL	3,687,680	3,228,089	4,154,924	4,781,685	4,280,299

Source : ITC Stats, UN Comtrade

Africa - Import Of Timber And Timber Products

Although the Africa region harbours high and diversified forest resources, the region still imports huge volumes of timber products amounting approximately USD6 billion annually. It is mostly due to the low capacity of the timber processing industry in the region. In 2023, import of timber and timber products into Africa was worth USD6.3 billion, an increase of 3% from USD6.1 billion in 2019. According to CSIL, furniture consumption in Africa amounted to USD21.2 billion in 2023. Thus, furniture was the highest imported timber product into the Africa region at USD1.9 billion, followed by sawntimber at USD1.8 billion and fibreboard USD709.1 million in 2023. The region mostly imported furniture and parts (HS9403) from China, Turkiye, Italy, South Africa and France while Malaysia ranked 13th amongst furniture supplying countries. As a whole, the region mostly imported timber and timber products from China, Sweden, Finland, Turkiye and Russia with Malaysia ranking 27th amongst supplying countries to the region.

South Africa as one of Malaysia's traditional trading partners recorded an import value of USD510.6 million in 2023 with furniture, sawntimber and fibreboard being the most demanded timber products. Malaysia ranked 6th among suppliers of timber and timber products (HS44) to South Africa, after Eswatini, China, France, Brazil and Namibia. As for furniture and parts (HS9403), Malaysia was the third largest supplier to South Africa, after China and Italy. Kenya recorded imports valued at USD155.5 million with furniture, sawntimber and fibreboard being the most imported timber product into the country. Malaysia as the third largest supplying countries of furniture and parts (HS9403) after China and Turkiye. Meanwhile, Kenya mainly sourced timber and timber products (HS44) from Tanzania, Uganda, China, Democratic Republic of Congo and Pakistan with Malaysia ranking 17th among supplying counties in 2023. Mauritius recorded an import value of timber and timber products worth USD98.6 million, an increase of 2% from USD97.1 million in 2022. Furniture, sawntimber and plywood are the most in demand with Malaysia ranking second largest supplying country after China for timber and timber products (HS44) while for furniture and parts (HS9403), Malaysia ranked fourth largest supplier to Mauritius after China, France and Indonesia. The details on import of timber and timber products for the Africa region are as below:

Africa: Import of Timber and Timber Products, 2019-2023

(Value USD '000)

Products	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Furniture	1,821,060	1,391,256	1,706,369	1,864,877	1,900,719
Sawntimber	1,983,020	1,655,740	2,182,978	2,119,663	1,830,712
Fibreboard	521,506	539,152	679,432	796,088	709,069
Plywood	543,141	448,462	520,348	631,515	585,018
BJC	232,776	189,852	246,711	264,804	277,590
Veneer	119,012	248,086	205,835	250,222	263,266
Particle board	160,752	139,593	205,944	230,950	218,125
Logs	132,253	116,053	151,880	154,969	129,003
Mouldings	36,817	25,848	33,586	39,845	31,143
Wooden frames	9,135	8,436	10,415	7,018	7,373
Others	582,815	279,569	352,872	412,958	378,422
TOTAL	6,142,287	5,042,047	6,296,370	6,772,909	6,330,440

Source : ITC Stats, UN Comtrade

Malaysia's Export Of Timber And Timber Products To Africa

In 2023, Malaysia exported RM286.9 million of timber and timber products to the Africa region with wooden furniture garnering the largest market share, approximately 54%, of its export value. Malaysia exported wooden furniture worth RM156.0 million, followed by sawntimber valued at RM65.4 million and mouldings at RM18.2 million in 2023 to the Africa region.

Export to South Africa was recorded at RM109.1 million, a decrease of 13% from RM125.5 million in 2022 with sawntimber, wooden furniture and mouldings as the top timber and timber products exported to the country. According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), South Africa ranked 21st from 175 Malaysian top export destinations for timber and timber products in 2023. Moving on to Mauritius, Malaysia recorded an export value worth RM45.7 million with sawntimber, wooden furniture and mouldings as the most demanded timber products. The country ranked 37th in Malaysia's export destinations for timber and timber products in 2023. Export of timber and timber products to Kenya was worth RM19.4 million with wooden furniture, fibreboard and chipboard/particleboard being the most exported items in 2023, of which Kenya ranked 49th in Malaysia's export destinations for timber and timber products. Export of timber and timber products to the Africa region are detailed in the table below:

Malaysia: Export of Timber and Timber Products to the Africa region, 2019 – 2023

(in RM)

Products	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wooden Furniture	258,440,058	192,069,625	140,300,612	180,434,554	156,000,210
Sawntimber	121,666,005	80,456,944	88,947,191	73,465,229	65,393,333
Mouldings	21,992,611	15,102,825	16,716,899	19,697,885	18,217,161
BJC	24,293,545	16,074,603	12,158,216	13,028,207	11,724,422
Fibreboard	52,483,664	34,761,253	21,366,931	33,214,507	11,479,329
Plywood	21,089,036	11,903,912	20,932,627	7,730,056	8,822,262
Veneer	1,701,835	203,370	626,692	1,145,477	876,905
Chipboard/ Particleboard	836,942	369,004	421,293	1,295,783	703,168
Logs	10,405	0	11,032	0	0
Other Products	4,013,918	3,237,986	2,949,389	3,371,459	13,688,539
TOTAL	506,528,019	354,179,522	304,430,882	333,383,157	286,905,329

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Malaysia's Import Of Timber And Timber Products From Africa

Since 2019, the buying trend for timber and timber products from the Africa region has improved significantly to reach RM158.2 million in 2023, an increase of 72% from RM92.2 million in 2019. Malaysia mostly imports sawntimber, veneer and logs from the continent. Cameroon is one of the main supplying countries of timber and timber products to Malaysia with an import value of RM81.3 million in 2023 with sawntimber, veneer and wooden furniture as the most imported products from the country. Cameroon ranked 10th top supplying countries of timber and timber products to Malaysia. From Republic of Congo, Malaysia imported RM50.8 million from the country and it ranked 19th in Malaysia's supplying countries in 2023, mainly in the form of sawntimber and mouldings. Meanwhile, Malaysia mainly imported sawntimber from the Central African Republic worth RM10.8 million and it ranked 32nd in Malaysia's supplying countries of timber and timber products in 2023. Malaysia's import of timber and timber products from the Africa region are detailed in the table below:

Malaysia: Import of Timber and Timber Products from the Africa region, 2019 – 2023

(in RM)

Products	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sawntimber	75,012,088	76,137,961	105,498,727	106,277,232	147,648,512
Veneer	12,346,182	13,444,227	7,779,957	18,236,884	2,380,809
Logs	149,910	259,788	574,991	428,489	855,195
Wooden Furniture	110,618	8,764	30,129	91,145	208,977
BJC	791,572	43,146	0	0	0
Mouldings	821,812	519,881	45,771	261,869	0
Plywood	62,497	111,109	0	0	0
Other Products	2,858,387	325,615	65,997	2,837,818	7,108,368
TOTAL	92,153,066	90,850,491	113,995,572	128,133,437	158,201,861

Source: MTIB & DOSM

The Africa Region - Tariff Rates And Trade Agreements

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is one of the flagship projects of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. By eliminating barriers to trade in Africa, the objective of the AfCFTA is to significantly boost intra-Africa trade, particularly trade in value-added production and trade across all sectors of Africa's economy. The AfCFTA is the world's largest free trade area bringing together the countries of the African Union (AU) and eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to create a single market for the continent. The AfCFTA entered into force on 30 May 2019. It was launched at the 12th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Niamey – Niger, in July 2019. The commencement of trading under the AfCFTA was in 1 January 2021. In April 2024, the African Union announced that the AfCFTA had entered into its operational phase of the agreement.

Import tariffs for timber and timber products for five major trading partners for Malaysia in Africa region are ranged between 0% to 5% and the table below displays its details.

Tariff Duties: Top Five Countries In The Africa Region

HS Code	Product	South Africa MFN Duty Rates (%) (Import)	Mauritius MFN Duty Rates (%) (Import)	Kenya MFN Duty Rates (%) (Import)	Tanzania MFN Duty Rates (%) (Import)	Seychelles MFN Duty Rates (%) (Import)
4401	Fuel Wood	0	0	0	0	0
4402	Wood Charcoal	0	0	0	0	25
4403	Logs	0	0	0	0	0
4404	Hoopwood, Split polis, Piles	0	0	0	0	0
4405	Wood wool; Wood flour	0	0	0	0	0
4406	Railway sleepers	0	0	0	0	0
4407	Sawntimber	0	0	10	10	0
4408	Veneer	0 - 10	0	25	25	0 - 5
4409	Mouldings	0 - 10	0	25	25	0
4410	Chipboard/Particleboard	15	0		25	0
4411	Fibreboard	10	0		25	0
4412	Plywood	10	0		25	0
4413	Metalised wood or other densified wood	10	0	25	25	0
4414	Wooden Frame	10	0	35	35	0
4415	Packing cases	10 - 20	0	35	35	0
4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	0	0	35	35	0
4417	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	10	0	25	25	0
4418	BJC	0 - 15	0 - 15	25	25	0
4419	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	30	15	25	25	0
4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	30	0 - 10	25	25	25
4421	Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	0 - 30	0	10 - 25	10 - 25	0 - 25
9401	Seat and parts thereof	0 - 20	0 - 30	25	25	0
9403	Wooden Furniture	20 - 25	0 - 30	25 - 35	25 - 35	0

Source: World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Outlook And Prospects

The African Development Bank's Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook report, published in January 2024, projects economic growth for the continent at 3.8% in 2024 and 4.2% in 2025. It was estimated that Africa will account for 11 out of the 20 fastest-growing economies in the world in 2024.

Risks to the outlook remain tilted to the downside. African countries are currently facing socio-economic challenges such as heightened food and energy prices driven by geopolitical tensions with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, climate issues affecting agriculture and energy production, and persistent political instability. Structural transformation has been limited, with economies heavily reliant on traditional, low-productivity sectors like agriculture or low-skilled services for growth and employment. Energy and transportation bottlenecks continue to impede economic activities in South Africa, while Nigeria's modest growth can be attributed to challenges in its oil sector. Moreover, conflicts and military coups in countries such as Sudan, Niger, and Gabon are likely to hamper growth in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa and some Sahel nations (Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria). Several countries, including Chad, Zambia, and Ghana, have initiated debt restructuring efforts to restore sustainability and rebuild fiscal space. Thus, Africa's economic performance is still being held back by the lower-than-average performance of the largest countries in the continent.

In the report 'Regional timber-trade flows and trends in Africa' published by the African Natural Resources Management and Investment Centre last March 2024, it was stated that further processing of timber products in Africa will contribute to the continent's industrialisation and increasing trade and the supply chain will promote the integration of African regions. It shows that African countries are spending a lot more on importing timber and timber products especially for furniture, sawntimber and fibreboard. Regarding trade openness policy to the forestry sector, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo and Gabon all feature in the top ten countries. The trade imbalance has a negative impact on the industrialisation and competitiveness of the timber industry in Africa and on the financial stability of national economies. Improving the timber trade in the Africa region depends on harmonising trade policies and regulations, easier access to trade financing, greater private and public investment, creating trade-related infrastructure, ensuring access to trade information, and strengthening production capacity. Successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area offers the main opportunity to improve the timber trade performance.

Meanwhile, Rwanda is the latest country to consider strict regulations on harvesting trees, in this case, restrictions on harvesting "immature trees" with a diameter at breast height of less than 20cm. There is a growing trend amongst African countries to support timber processing versus the export of unprocessed logs. The growing interest amongst Southern and East African countries in mass timber production is in line with this processing trend. Recently, Gabon has launched a cutting-edge timber traceability system. The new system, which is mandatory for all logging and wood processing companies operating in Gabon, tracks timber products throughout the supply chain using mobile apps, web apps, and geo-location data. The system is the result of collaboration between the Gabonese government, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), and Code4NatureIt.

Nevertheless, in the rise of carbon trade issues nowadays, harnessing the potential of natural resources provides an opportunity to improve the fiscal and debt sustainability of African countries. Natural resources (oil, gas, and minerals) offer a huge economic opportunity for African economies during the low-carbon transition. As the economies in the region recover at a faster pace in the years to come, policy should be geared towards sharing the growth benefits more equally across the population by investing in human capital, fostering economic diversification, and fostering jobs-friendly economic growth. To achieve substantial structural transformation, Africa needs to focus on strategic investments in key Sustainable Development Goal areas such as education, energy, productivity-enhancing technology and innovation, and productive transport infrastructure. The financing gap for these investments is vast, estimated at about USD402 billion annually until 2030, and will require scaling up domestic resource mobilisation and fostering private sector investment.

With the rising population and demand for residential construction, the demand for household furniture is increasing. Thus, Malaysian timber and timber product manufacturers should tap into this huge market by producing a variety of quality and durable products at competitive prices that would be able to meet the demand of the region's consumer market. Malaysian timber and furniture exporters should also enhance their presence and improve business networking with the region importers by participating in relevant fairs/exhibition in the region, in markets such as South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania and Seychelles as well as in business meetings and in specialised selling missions to cater to the market demand. Malaysian exporters are further strongly encouraged to take advantage of the good prospects of the continent's rapid growth.

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BEKAK SUITABLE FOR LIGHT TO MEDIUM CONSTRUCTION

*Prepared by :
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The scientific name for Bekak is *Amoora* spp., and it belongs to the family of *Meliaceae*. Vernacular names applied for Bekak include Kedondong kjau, Merelang and Pasak lingga in Peninsular Malaysia, Lantupak paya and Lantupak in Sabah, and Segera (Sarawak).

Major species include *A. lawii*, *A. macrocarpa*, *A. malaccensis*, *A. multinevis*, *A. rubiginosa* and *A. spectabilis*.

Bekak is also known as Amali and *Amoora* (India), Bunjau, Kolaka, Lempega gunung, Parak api, Perak seluang, Tenge and Woloe lakoe (Indonesia), Mai Kuang Deng and Nok Kok (Lao PDR), *Amoora* and Aukchinza-ni (Myanmar), Amoor (Pakistan), *Amoora* (Papua New Guinea), Kato (Philippines), Ta-sua (Thailand) and Goi noc (Viet Nam).

Description

Bekak is a sub-canopy tree, and it can reach up to 30 m in height with a dense crown. The bole is straight and relatively short with steep, plank-like buttresses reaching up to 1.8 m. The leaves are alternate and compound with penni-veined leaflets.

Ecology

Bekak commonly occurs in lowland forest and on ridges with sandy to clay soils. It is also found in undisturbed mixed dipterocarp forests to sub-montane forest up to an altitude of 1,000m

Density

The timber is hard and ranges from moderately heavy to heavy. It is classified as Medium Hardwood with a density of 705-1,025 kg/m when air-dried.

Natural durability

The timber is moderately durable

Appearance and Texture

The sapwood is straw-coloured and is sharply differentiated from the heartwood, which is brick-red or dark red and becomes dark red-brown or walnut-brown upon exposure. The texture is slightly coarse and even with an interlocked and irregular grain.

Strength Properties

Bekak falls into Strength Group B (Burgess, 1958) or SG 3 (MS 544: Part 2:2001).

Machining Properties

Despite its medium density, Bekak is fairly easy to slightly difficult to saw. It machines to a smooth surface, though it is difficult to cross-cut. Planing is easy to slightly difficult and the planed surface is smooth.

Nailing Property

Test results were obtained from specimens hand-nailed using common wire nails spaced at fixed intervals. An ordinary carpenter's hammer was used and no pre-boring was carried out. Resistance to splitting was the criterion used to assess the nailing properties. No difficulty was experienced with the use of standard fittings and fastenings.

Air Drying

The timber seasons fairly rapidly, with only slight cupping, bowing, end-checking and insect attacks as the main sources of degrade. 13 mm thick boards take 6 weeks to air dry, while 38 mm thick boards take 14 weeks.

Shrinkage

Shrinkage is rather high, especially in the radial direction, which averages 2.4%. The tangential shrinkage also averages 2.4%.

Uses

The timber is suitable for light to medium construction, decking, flooring (heavy traffic), power-line posts when treated, posts, beams, joists, rafters, pallets (heavy and permanent types), tool handles (impact), staircase (angle blocks, rough brackets, apron linings, baluster and balustrade) and boat planking. Bekak is also used for decorative items such as furniture, mouldings, wall panelling and shutters. Other uses include crates and fruit cases. 



Amoora spp.
(endgrain 10x)

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INDONESIA

WEAKENING PLYWOOD DEMAND LEADS TO LAYOFFS

Thousands of employees in upstream and downstream forestry industries have been laid off due to sluggish international demand for plywood products and the Association of Indonesian Forest Concession Holders (APHI) says policy incentives are needed to prevent the current situation from continuing.

According to APHI data, in the first half of 2024 2,400 employees working in Forest Utilization Business Permit–Natural Forests (PBPH-HA) companies were laid off, and 125 others sent home. Layoffs also occurred in the plywood processing industry. It was reported that 6,250 people working in three plywood industry groups were laid off.

APHI Deputy Chairman for Natural Forests Dr David explained that the market continues to be slow in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to geopolitical conflicts. "Weakening demand for plywood in the global market impacted the processing industry and PBPH upstream, the suppliers of raw materials," he said on September 17.

He added that, due to slow plywood export trade, there is a 913,000 cubic metres stock of natural forest logs from 35 PBPHs that the industry has not absorbed. "Many PBPHs are having difficulty operating because no industry is buying the wood they produce while costs are getting higher due to various factors such as fuel prices," he said. Currently, only 94 out of 247 PBPH-HA units are in production. PBPH-HA roundwood production is also described as deficient. As of August 2024, it was recorded at only 2.21 million cubic metres, or 39% of the annual production projection of 5.58 million cubic metres.

Dr David proposed several policy incentives to revive the forestry industry and avoid employee layoffs. One of them is expanding the range of processed wood products that can be exported. He also proposed that to spur the processing industry and increase the absorption of wood production, the government should open the door to exporting sawntimber products to exploit marketing opportunities abroad.

www.itto.int, September 13, 2024



VIETNAM

VIETNAMESE ENTERPRISES URGED TO COMPLY WITH UPCOMING EU DEFORESTATION REGULATION

As the European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) is set to take effect on December 31, 2024, Vietnamese businesses have been advised to act promptly to ensure compliance with this new rule, which is crucial for maintaining export activities to the EU, a major market for Vietnam, according to the Vietnam News Agency.

The Viet Nam Trade Promotion Agency, operating under the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT), highlighted that the EUDR, which was issued in June 2023, aims to establish deforestation-free supply chains. The regulation prohibits the import or consumption of products and goods associated with deforestation or forest degradation within the EU. Businesses exporting to the EU must demonstrate that their products do not originate from land deforested or subjected to forest degradation after December 31, 2020.

The EUDR specifically targets commodities with a significant impact on deforestation, including coffee, cocoa, soybeans, palm oil, cattle, timber, wood products, and rubber. Of these, three major Vietnamese exports—timber, rubber, and coffee—are directly affected by this regulation, representing over 2.5 billion USD in annual export revenue to the EU.

Hoang Thanh, a representative of the EU Delegation to Viet Nam, noted that the EUDR will initially apply to large enterprises starting December 31, 2024, with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) required to comply by June 30, 2025. Only products that meet the criteria of being non-deforestation-compliant and legal will be allowed entry into the EU market or be exported from the EU.

Discussing the challenges posed by the EUDR, Dinh Sy Minh Lang, a representative from

the MOLT's European-American Market Department, warned that the requirements for origin tracing and EUDR certification could increase export costs, particularly for SMEs. Vietnamese products could face intense competition, as businesses from other countries may be better prepared for EUDR compliance.

Lang also pointed out that the difficulty in identifying legal farming zones could impact the accuracy of assessing and classifying risks based on country and production zones. Additionally, controlling input materials in the supply chains of coffee, timber, and rubber is complex due to the involvement of multiple layers of traders.

Experts, as reported by the Viet Nam News Agency, have emphasized that with the EUDR and other stringent EU regulations approaching, Vietnamese enterprises must swiftly adjust their production processes. Complying with the EUDR could present numerous opportunities, including improving competitiveness, as businesses with sustainable supply chains and quality material sources will be prioritized by European partners.

Thanh added that the EU will assist Southeast Asian countries, including Vietnam, in building capacity, raising awareness, and sharing information about EUDR requirements.

The Vietnam Rubber Association has proposed that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issue technical guidance for the affected sectors so they can develop timely response plans. It also suggested that state agencies devise measures to support businesses in adapting to the EUDR, particularly in terms of positioning data and origin tracing.

Echoing this view, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thuong Lang from the National Economics University stressed the need for authorities to provide more detailed instructions to enterprises, open a support website, or establish groups of related companies and parties to provide updates on the EUDR and other green standards of the EU. He added that it is necessary to issue detailed policies and guidance, set up a question-and-answer unit to quickly meet information demand, and conduct surveys to assess their capacity for providing appropriate assistance.

vietnamnews.vn, September 3, 2024



AUSTRIA

THE SAWMILLS EXPECT A SLIGHT INCREASE IN PRODUCTION

With a weak construction economy, stagnating sales prices and significantly rising costs for raw materials, energy and personnel, Austria's sawmill industry has been holding its own in a difficult environment for almost two years, according to DI Markus Schmölzer. As the chairman of the Austrian sawmill industry announced on the occasion of the International Wood Day 2024 in Klagenfurt, the industry produced 10% less sawn timber in 2023, while a slightly increased production volume can be expected for 2024.

The timber trade painted a similar picture and is currently facing sales and revenue losses in almost all areas. As KR Franz Teuschler, deputy chairman of the Austrian timber trade, explained, the packaging sector is doing better than construction, but has also come under pressure. Accordingly, the hope is that the next federal government will adopt a more active economic policy with impulses for housing construction and renovation measures that will increase value creation in the country.

Exports of softwood sawn timber from Austria fell by 8% in 2023. In the current year, volumes increased by 8% up to May. However, the increased sales costs could not be compensated for. But the biggest construction site in foreign trade remains the EUDR. "In more than 12 months after it came into force, the EU Commission has not succeeded in answering key implementation questions in such a way that our companies can apply the EUDR in a legally secure and economical manner," criticizes Schmölzer, adding: "The time that has passed so far means that our companies do not have enough time to take measures and, for example, adapt their IT systems. It is therefore fair and necessary that our industry is given a longer implementation period of at least 12 months."

Data and supplier protection continues to cause massive uncertainty in the timber trade. Teuschler explains: "It cannot be the case

that a trader has to disclose all of his upstream suppliers to his end customers. Only the auditing authority should have access to this. Otherwise, market participants could be bypassed and forced out of the market. So far, there has been no proposal from the EU Commission on this problem." The sawmill industry and timber trade are sticking to their fundamental criticism of the EUDR. Compared to the bureaucratic effort, it does not add any value and harms small and medium-sized businesses. Instead, they would like to see a Green Deal that allows the forestry and timber industry to make its contribution.

www.fordaq.com, September 10, 2024



JAPAN

PLYWOOD IMPORTS

The various categories of plywood imported in July most was HS441231. Total shipments from Malaysia and Indonesia is over 90% was HS441239. The shipments from China were more varied with HS441234 and 39 accounting for around 40% each of July shipments with HS441231 accounting for most of the balance. Shippers in Vietnam supplied mainly HS441231 (70%) with HS441234 making up most of the balance. Other shippers appearing in Japan's plywood import statistics in July included Finland, Latvia and Russia.

The volume of July plywood imports (441210-39) was 128,706 cubic metres, up by over 20% from the same month in 2023 however, month on month the volume of July shipments was little changed. Year on year the volume of July arrivals from China, Malaysia and Vietnam increased with July arrivals from Indonesia being at around the same level as in June. Import data shows that for the two main plywood suppliers to Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia, July volumes were little changed from the previous month.

www.itto.int, September 16, 2024



SWEDEN

SAWLOG PRICES CONTINUED TO RISE

In the second quarter of this year, the price of sawlogs increased by nearly eight percent, while the price of pulpwood rose by five percent. The largest price increases occurred in southern Sweden.

According to statistics from the Swedish Forest Agency, timber prices continued to rise during the second quarter of 2024. The statistics show that regionally, the price of sawlogs increased the most in Götaland, with a five percent rise, followed by Svealand with a three percent increase. In Southern Norrland, the sawlog price increased by two percent, while in Northern Norrland, the price decreased by just under one percent compared to the first quarter of this year.

A similar pattern can be seen for pulpwood prices. In Götaland and Svealand, pulpwood prices increased by five and four percent, respectively. In Southern and Northern Norrland, pulpwood prices decreased by two percent and just under one percent, respectively.

Sharp increase from 2023

When compared to the second quarter of 2023, the overall price of sawlogs in the country increased by just over 33 percent. Sawlog prices rose in all regions: up 28 percent in Götaland, 36 percent in Svealand, 21 percent in Southern Norrland, and nine percent in Northern Norrland compared to the same quarter last year.

www.fordaq.com, September 5, 2024



INDIA

STANDARDS BUREAU BUILDS AWARENESS OF MANDATORY PLYWOOD QUALITY CONTROL ORDER (QCO)

The BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) and DPIIT (Department for promotion of industry and internal trade) have stepped up efforts to inform industry via testing laboratories and awareness workshops about implementation of the Quality Control Order (QCO) for Plywood and Flush Doors in February 2025.

Up to August 2024, 900 plywood manufacturing units had managed to obtain the mandatory certification required for conformance out of an estimated total of 3,000. Concerns have been raised that the remaining 2,100 units will find it difficult to undertake the required testing and secure certification in time, with certificates taking three months for BIS to issue.

To solve the problems faced by micro, small, medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) in relation to the cost of logistics associated with testing, the government is working with the established laboratories of companies like Tata Steel and facilities recognised by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, which can be used for testing plywood and panel products.

The QCO does not affect goods manufactured domestically in India for export but does apply to imported products. The BIS has stated that stakeholders with concerns about the QCO can address them directly to its centres or mail to the DPIIT.

www.itto.int ,September 16, 2024



CHINA

SURGE IN PLYWOOD EXPORTS TO TAIWAN P.O.C

In the first half of 2024 China's plywood exports totalled 6.35 million cubic metres valued at USD2.46 billion, up 24% and 4% respectively.

The destinations for China's plywood exports are numerous and the proportion of China's plywood exports to the top 12 destinations accounted for 57% of the national total in the first half of 2024.

China's plywood exports to most markets have been rising at different rates and to each of the top 12 destinations volumes exceeded 200,000 cubic metres in the first half of 2024.

The Philippines, UK and Saudi Arabia were ranked after Taiwan P.o.C in the first half of 2024. China's plywood exports to the Philippines and UK and Saudi Arabia grew 10%, 11% and 36% respectively which contributed to the increase in the total volume of China's plywood exports in the first half of 2024.

In addition, China's plywood exports to Vietnam, Iraq and Malaysia also rose sharply by 94%, 96% and 70% respectively in the first half of 2024. In contrast, China's plywood exports to Japan and Nigeria fell 3% and 28% respectively in the first half of 2024.

China's plywood exports to the USA rose in the first half of 2024 and totalled 150,000 cubic metres valued at USD 88 million, up 5% in volume but down 15% in price. The CIF price for China's plywood exports to the USA dropped 19% over the same period of 2023.

www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com, September 17, 2024



UNITED STATES

CONSUMER SENTIMENT RISES FOR SECOND MONTH

Americans' outlook on the economy improved for the second straight month in September, bolstered by lower prices for long-lasting goods such as cars and furniture and the prospect of interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index ticked up to 69 in its preliminary reading, its highest level since May and up from 67.9 in August.

The gain was driven by consumers' perceptions that prices have improved for durable goods, the report from University of Michigan said. The survey bottomed out in June 2022, when inflation peaked at 9.1%, and has since risen by about 40%, though it remains significantly below pre-pandemic levels.

The long-term average for the index is nearly 85, according to Capital Economics. Rising consumer confidence can sometimes signal a greater willingness to spend, though Americans have largely continued to spend at a healthy pace even though their confidence, as measured in surveys, has been subdued. The economy expanded at a 3% annual rate in the April-June quarter, and retail spending picked up in July. Yet Americans have been saving less and running up more credit card debt, which has raised concerns among some economists that consumers will soon have to cut back, potentially slowing growth.

www.sca.isr.umich.edu, September 30, 2024



BRAZIL

WOOD PRODUCT EXPORTS RISE

Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) were up 9.9% in July on the same month in 2023, from USD278.3 million to USD305.7 million.

Pine sawnwood exports increased 33.7% in value from USD40.1 million in July 2023 to USD53.6 million in June 2024. In volume, exports were up 31.8%, from 173,500 cubic metres to 228,700 cubic metres.

Tropical sawnwood exports decreased 5.3% in volume, from 26,400 cubic metres in July 2023 to 25,000 cubic metres in July 2024. In value, exports decreased 14.9% from USD 13.4 million to USD 11.4 million.

Pine plywood exports increased 13.8% in value to USD 59.2 million in July 2024 compared to USD 52.0 million in July 2023. In volume, exports increased 6.8% from 159,900 cubic metres to 170,800 cubic metres.

Tropical plywood, exports decreased 35.3% in value and 34.5% in volume, from USD1.7 million and 2,900 cu.m in July 2023 to USD1.1 million and 1,900 cu.m in July 2024. Wooden furniture export value increased 2.3% from USD 47.5 million in July 2023 to USD 48.6 million.

www.fordaq.com, September 2, 2024



CAMEROON

PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE AND LEGAL TRADE IN ROSEWOOD

The Regional Workshop for Range States for African Rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) was held from September 2 to 6, 2024, in Douala,

Cameroon. Organised by the CITES Secretariat in cooperation with the Association Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), the workshop aimed to promote an integrated approach among states to ensure sustainable and legal trade. African Rosewood is one of the most heavily traded tropical hardwoods globally, used in furniture, musical instruments, medicines, and fuelwood. Since 2022, all populations of African Rosewood have been listed in Appendix II of CITES, requiring that international trade is conducted in a sustainable, legal and traceable manner

cites.org, September 12, 2024



GLOBAL GLOBAL TIMBER FORUM LAUNCHES ACTION FRAMEWORK FOR LEGAL AND SUSTAINABLE TIMBER SUPPLY CHAINS

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum (GLSTF) has launched the Action Framework for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Timber Supply Chains to strengthen international collaboration among stakeholders in timber supply chains, promote the sustainable development of the timber industry, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and combating climate change.

The GLSTF was created in 2023 by ITTO and Macao's Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), and the inaugural Forum was convened in 2023. GLSTF 2024 brought together more than 700 participants from over 40 countries, representing governments, industries, associations, companies, international organizations and academics.

In her opening address at GLSTF 2024, ITTO Executive Director Sheam Satkuru asserted that the GLSTF is a collaborative platform of timber industry stakeholders designed to strengthen networking and business exchanges among timber industry stakeholders to facilitate sustainable forest management and the legal

and sustainable use and trade of timber and wood products.

The Action Framework, endorsed by Forum participants, will enable the identification and implementation of practical actions to help build legal and sustainable timber supply chains. (The Action Framework is available for download at the end of the story.)

"The GLSTF is an important and innovative forum that, for the first time, is bringing together timber-sector actors across supply chains to support the implementation of sustainable forestry and the legal and sustainable use of timber," said ITTO Director of Trade and Industry Nurudeen Iddrisu on behalf of Ms Satkuru. "We need now to strengthen its work with concrete action, as outlined in the Framework launched today."

The Action Framework sets out eight action areas—(1) partnership networking; (2) information-sharing; (3) market access facilitation; (4) certification and traceability innovation; (5) innovative technologies and technology transfer; (6) ways and means for sustainable finance and investment; (7) industrial clusters and parks development; and (8) capacity building and training.

"There is huge potential to expand action in all these areas and more," said Dr Iddrisu. "We invite all stakeholders in the timber sector and along supply chains to jointly implement the Action Framework based on the principles of voluntariness, openness and transparency."

GLSTF 2024 was organized around the theme, "together towards reliable and effective global timber supply chains". Convened over two intense days, it comprised diverse activities, including the main forum; four sub-forums covering timber legality and sustainability responses to emerging trade requirements, timber resources and integration in global timber markets, advanced technologies and machinery for timber processing, and green finance and innovative financial mechanisms and opportunities for sustainable forestry; side-events on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and youth leadership on wood and bamboo buildings; B2B matchings; bilateral meetings; the release of a set of Forum achievements; an industry exhibition; and a press conference. Participants discussed topics related to promoting reliable and effective global timber supply chains and heard many valuable opinions and suggestions.

www.ito.int, September 12, 2024

LOGS

The current situation of the average market price for 20 species of logs referred to as the source of price information for August 2024 showed that 55% or 11 species, had a price decrease of between 1.4 and 18% , or around RM27-RM300 per tonne, with 5% or one species increased by 1.7% or around RM23 per tonne, while the average price of eight remaining species was reported to be unchanged.

Chengal, Balau, Red Balau and Merbau were among the eleven species that experienced a price drop. Mengkulang and Tualang were in the Medium Hardwood Group, and Dark Red Meranti, Red Meranti, Yellow Meranti, Nyatoh and Sepetir were in the Light Hardwood Group. With the stated price decreases, all of these species are now on the market for RM5,000, RM3,715, RM1,959, RM2,875, RM1,779, RM1,300, RM1,774, RM1,840, RM1,657, RM1,483 and RM1,320 per tonne, respectively. Timber from the Kempas species was the only species reported to have increased in price, trading at an average of RM1,352 per tonne, up from RM1,329 per tonne the month before. Overall, demand, particularly from the export market, intermittent supply of logs, and the selection of certain species continue to contribute to current log pricing.

SAWNTIMBER

Approximately 85% of the GMS production class, or 17 species, were found to have had no price adjustments. The remaining three species, Keruing, Yellow Meranti and White Meranti were estimated to have dropped at a rate of between 1.2 and 9.2%, or roughly RM36-RM206 per m³. The three species were traded in the market at an average price of RM2,954, RM1,799 and RM2,036 per m³, after price decreases.

For the STRIPS production class, like the GMS, around 85%, or 17 out of 20 species, were reported to have had no price adjustments in the current month. Of the remaining three species, two of them, Keruing and Dark Red Meranti, recorded a price decrease of between 1.0 and 8.3%, or around RM24-RM177 per m³. Nyatoh was the only species under this production class that recorded a price increase of 7.8%, equivalent to RM124 per m³, and was on the market at RM1,713 per m³.

Similar to the GMS and STRIPS production classes, almost 95% or 19 of the total 20 species under the Scantling production class, were reported to have had a stagnant average price in the preceding month. Sepetir, a light hardwood species, saw a 15.4% price fall, RM235 per m³, from its previous trade price of RM1,295 per m³.

Overall, the present market pricing condition of sawntimber for the three production categories in August 2024 may be described as hardly altered, with at least 85% of the 20 chosen species referred to maintaining stable prices from the previous month. Relatively low purchasing power with supply contracts regardless of species, as well as variable export market circumstances, were viewed as contributing causes to the present market pricing of sawn timber products.

PLYWOOD

The average market price position of plywood for the four primary sizes sold in August 2024 revealed that plywood with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm, and 12mm remained stable. This price retention saw plywood with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm, and 12mm selling at average prices of RM19.40, RM26.00, RM38.25, and RM48.85 per piece, respectively. Based on the statistics for the one-year period beginning August 2023, it was noted that the average price of the reported plywood had remained unchanged, with no change since that time.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF)

The average market price of MDF goods for August 2024 was likewise reported unchanged for the third consecutive month, with the most recent change being in May 2024. As a result, MDF with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm, and 12mm was once again selling at average prices of RM12.90, RM23.80, RM31.60, and RM37.75 per piece respectively, with the largest price range for all four sizes traded being approximately RM12.90 to RM42.00 per piece.

TRADE IN MALAYSIA*
- AUGUST 2024

In August 2024, only sawntimber, plywood, and veneer were traded between Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia, with a total trade volume of 3,344 m³ and a trade value of around RM6.67 million. In comparison to veneer and sawntimber, plywood remained the most important trading commodity between these two regions. Plywood had a trade value of RM5.51 million at a volume of 2,804 m³, while sawnwood and veneer goods had trade values of RM0.59 million and RM0.57 million respectively, with trading quantities of 303 m³ and 237 m³. Plywood, which led in terms of value and overall trade volume, had increased by 17% and 23% respectively, over the previous month. When the value chain and trade volume decreased from the previous month, veneer and sawntimber goods experienced a more than 50% shift.

In August 2024, trade in timber products between Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia allegedly included sawntimber, plywood and veneer. Trading activity for three products totalled at RM1.78 million with a volume of 1,636 m³. Similar to Sabah, plywood was noted as the main product that dominated trade operations between the two regions, producing the largest trade value of RM1.60 million, up 55% over the previous month's RM1.03 million. The current month's trading volume climbed by 79% from 875 m³ to 1,563 m³. However, the volume and trade value of sawntimber products decreased by 95% from the previous month, from 543 m³ to just 29 m³ and RM0.93 million to RM0.05 million. The overall volume and trade value of veneer product reported this month on the other hand, remained constant.

*Source: Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Department of Statistics Malaysia

***AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF
IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA
RINGGIT MALAYSIA
AUGUST 2024**

SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m³			
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS	
HEAVY HARDWOOD					
Chengal	5,000	6,003	5,650	6,356	
Balau	3,715	3,055	2,338	4,590	
Red Balau	1,959	2,754	2,119	2,419	
Merbau	2,875	3,754	3,225	3,725	
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,081	1,342	1,225	1,246	
MEDIUM HARDWOOD					
Keruing	2,192	2,954	2,342	2,495	
Kempas	1,352	2,166	2,048	2,331	
Kapur	1,799	1,746	1,289	1,853	
Mengkulang	1,779	1,299	1,201	2,013	
Tualang	1,300	1,907	1,448	1,766	
LIGHT HARDWOOD					
Dark Red Meranti	1,774	2,130	1,942	3,355	
Red Meranti	1,840	1,766	2,004	2,307	
Yellow Meranti	1,657	1,799	1,530	1,695	
White Meranti	1,667	2,036	1,801	1,624	
Mersawa	1,459	2,013	1,283	2,154	
Nyatoh	1,483	1,801	1,713	1,201	
Sepetir	1,320	1,819	1,660	1,295	
Jelutong	1,384	2,119	1,589	1,819	
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,147	1,278	1,095	1,165	
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD Hevea brasiliensis	LOGS/ton	SAWNTIMBER/m³			
	205	1" X 1"	2"X2"	3"X 3"	4" X 4"
		1,210	1,345	1,470	1,630
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm	
	19.40	26.00	38.25	48.85	
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm	
	12.90	23.80	31.60	37.75	

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

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE

	Jul-24		Aug-24		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	JUL/AUG	JUL/AUG
Sabah						
Logs	7,371	2,117	0	0	-100	-100
Sawn Timber	2,406	1,139	303	570	-87	-50
Plywood	2,284	4,723	2,804	5,511	23	17
Veneer	693	1,767	237	586	-66	-67
Sarawak						
Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawn Timber	543	931	29	46	-95	-95
Plywood	875	1,039	1,563	1,606	79	55
Veneer	44	123	44	123	0	0

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia

Tabulated: Malaysian Timber Industry Board

Container Spot Rates Plummet As Asia-Europe Trades Witness Double-Digit Declines



The steady decline of container spot freight rates between Asia and Europe turned decidedly steeper this week, with both the Asia-North Europe and Asia-Mediterranean trades witnessing double-digit declines.

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) saw its Shanghai-Rotterdam leg shed nearly \$1,000 per 40ft this week, dropping 14% week on week, while Xeneta's XSI Asia-Europe price fell 10%, to \$6,843 per 40ft.

Meanwhile, the WCI Shanghai-Genoa leg saw spot rates decline 12%, to \$5,842 per 40ft, while the Freightos Baltic Index Asia-Mediterranean leg was also down 12%, to \$6,274 per 40ft. "The market has turned, and we are seeing spot rates dropping quickly," said one European forwarder.

The key problem for carriers is demand: despite all the extra capacity deployed via the Cape of Good Hope to cater for the extra sailing distances on Asia-Europe services, demand appears to have peaked, with the booking frenzy, and accompanying rate peaks of May and June, now little more than a recent memory. Further evidence for this view came yesterday when Container Trade Statistics released its July figures, which showed monthly volumes beginning to decline.

According to CTS data, shipments from the Far East to Europe in July shed nearly 200,000 teu on the month before – dropping 0.5% from the 1.75m teu shipped in June, to 1.58m teu in July. "I'd say with some certainty that the 'peak' was reached at the end of July on export volumes ex-Asia – which will only reflect in September/October arrival data at our end," the forwarder continued.

And some parts of Asia showed an even greater decline: North Asia to North Europe

volumes in July were down 7.6% month on month, and 14.2% year on year, while volumes from China to North Europe were down 3.9% month on month, although they remained 7.9% up on a year-on-year basis. "We expect August data to show further drops month on month and demand in September looks weak. Blank sailing activity will ramp up as we approach Golden Week and is the only hope for carriers to slow the freefall in rates," he added.

On Tuesday, THE Alliance member Hapag-Lloyd announced the grouping would blank five Asia-North Europe sailings in weeks 40 to 42, and three Asia-Mediterranean sailings in weeks 40 and 41. Part of the problem for carriers is that the longer transit times via the Cape of Good Hope mean peak season cargo has to be loaded earlier in Asia to meet arrival windows, and this [the peak] is now coming to an end.

"For shipments to North Europe and the Mediterranean, the arrival window for this year's peak season goods – taking into account longer transit times around the south of Africa and the upcoming Golden Week slowdown in China – is closing, removing some demand side pressure on rates," said Freightos lead analyst Judah Levine.

"Prices to North Europe remain five times higher than in 2019, nonetheless; but relative to their July peaks, rates have now decreased," he added. Spot rates on the transpacific also weakened this week, albeit by a far lower degree – the WCI's Shanghai-Los Angeles leg dropped 3%, to finish the week at \$6,030 per 40ft, while the XSI transpacific index also dropped 3%, to \$6,482 per 40ft.

It was a similar picture on the Asia-North America east coast trade, where the WCI's Shanghai-New York leg saw pricing decline 2%, to \$8,451 per 40ft. Both declines on the Asia-North America trades came despite the looming threat of the dockers strike on the east and Gulf coasts, which had led analysts to forecast a surge in traffic, and thus spot rates, to west coast ports.

Neither appears to have happened – in fact, The Loadstar reported earlier this week that a nascent rate war seems to be breaking out on the eastbound transpacific trade, with a number of non-alliance carriers said to be "slashing rates" to improve utilisation and offering further indications of mounting overcapacity.

Source: The Loadstar _ September 6, 2024

Container Spot Rates Continue To Tumble As Peak Season Comes To Early End



Spot freight rates on every major container lane continued to tumble over the past week as demand remained flat, while a possible short-term pre-Golden Week upsurge has so far failed to materialise. Golden Week begins on 1 October and the week-long public holiday sees work stop across the country – in previous years there has often been a spike in demand over the fortnight before it begins.

However, it would appear shippers have more pressing issues, particularly the growing probability of a strike on the US east and Gulf coasts, which would explain this week's dramatic collapse in Asia-North America east coast spot rates as their window to get import cargo into the east coast before 1 October has now disappeared.

The Shanghai-New York leg of Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) saw its spot rate decline 21% this week to finish at \$6,661 per 40ft. "Shippers are transferring their cargo from the US east coast to the west coast to avoid the planned ILA strike in October, resulting in a drop in demand," Drewry said.

"This resulted in a huge 21% decline in east coast spot rates. Due to weak demand, Drewry expects East-West rates to decrease further in the upcoming weeks," it added. Freightos lead analyst Judah Levine explained: "As we're now about past the deadline to move containers from Asia to the east coast before a strike, there are more reports of carriers offering discounts and expectations that east coast rates are likely to drop significantly soon.

"This deadline may add some buoyancy to west coast rates as more volumes shift there

from the east and Gulf. "The ILA and port operators are still far apart on issues like wages and port automation, and with negotiations suspended a strike is looking more and more likely. "As most importers pulled peak season shipments forward for exactly this reason though, a strike may not have a widespread impact on the availability of holiday season goods for consumers," he added.

Indeed, of the major east-west trades, the WCI's Shanghai-Los Angeles leg saw the flattest declines, down 7% to \$5,627 per 40ft, while the Xeneta XSI transpacific component was down 4% to \$6,342 per 40ft.

Meanwhile, this week saw another set of double-digit declines on both the Asia-North Europe and Asia-Mediterranean routes, providing further evidence that 2024's peak season has come to an early conclusion. The WCI's Shanghai-Rotterdam leg declined 17% to finish the week on \$5,152 per 40ft, while the Shanghai-Genoa leg was down 10% to \$5,256 per 40ft.

However, the current spot rates on these two trades are 297% and 210% higher respectively on a year-on-year basis; while the Shanghai-Los Angeles rate is 160% higher than a year ago and the Shanghai-New York now (only) 120% higher than a year ago.

Source: The Loadstar _ September 13, 2024

U.S. Locks In Steep China Tariff Hikes



The Biden administration on Friday locked in steep tariff hikes on Chinese imports, including a 100% duty on electric vehicles, to strengthen protections for strategic domestic industries from China's state-driven excess production capacity.

The U.S. Trade Representative's said that many of the tariffs, including a 100% duty on Chinese EVs, 50% on solar cells and 25% on steel, aluminum, EV batteries and key minerals, would go into effect on Sept. 27. The USTR determination, published on Friday but first reviewed by Reuters, showed a 50% duty on Chinese semiconductors, which now include two new categories – polysilicon used in solar panels and silicon wafers – are due to start in 2025.

The action, which marks the end of a more than two-year review of tariffs that had been imposed by former president Donald Trump, mostly left unchanged the top-line duty increases announced in May by President Joe Biden. These include a new 25% tariff on lithium-ion batteries, minerals and components, with those for EVs taking effect on Sept. 27, and those for all other devices on Jan. 1, 2026.

The Biden administration also left in place Trump's tariffs on over \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods ranging from toys and t-shirts to internet routers and industrial machinery at rates of 7.5% to 25%. The final decision largely disregarded pleas from automakers for lower tariffs on graphite and critical minerals used in EV battery production because they are still dependent on Chinese supplies.

The action drew industry complaints that the increases would disrupt supply chains, including for semiconductor-intensive products, and do little to stop China's technology transfer and industry domination practices that have led to excess factory production now flooding global markets.

"Since implementation, the tariffs have cumulatively cost American businesses and consumers \$221 billion, while failing to alter Chinese trade policies and practices of concern," Information Technology Industries Council President Jason Oxman said in a statement. "With today's announcement, USTR once again relies on the blunt and ineffective tool of tariffs with no support for their effectiveness."

'TOUGH, TARGETED'

Lael Brainard, the top White House economic adviser, told Reuters the decision was made to ensure that the U.S. EV industry diversifies away from China's dominant supply chain.

She said such "tough, targeted" tariffs are needed to counter China's state-driven subsidies and technology transfer policies that have led to over-investment and excess production capacity. Washington is investing hundreds of billions of

dollars worth of its own tax subsidies to develop domestic EV, solar and semiconductor sectors.

"The 100% tariff on electric vehicles here does reflect the very significant unfair cost advantage that Chinese electric vehicles in particular are using to dominate car markets at a breathtaking pace in other parts of the world," Brainard said. "That's not going to take place here under the vice president's and the president's leadership."

China has vowed retaliation against the "bullying" tariff hikes and argued that its EV industry's success is due to innovation, not government support. A spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The higher U.S. tariffs take effect as Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris are both courting voters in auto and steel producing states, trying to position themselves as tough on China ahead of the November presidential election. Trump has vowed to impose 60% tariffs on all Chinese imports. The European Union and Canada also are imposing new tariffs on Chinese EVs, the latter matching the 100% U.S. duties.

PORT, MEDICAL RELIEF

The final tariff decision does provide some temporary relief for U.S. port operators who were facing a new 25% tariff on massive ship-to-shore cranes, an industry that China dominates with no U.S. producers.

The duty would add millions of dollars to the cost of each crane. USTR said it will allow exclusions from the tariffs for any Chinese port cranes that were ordered prior to the May 14 initial tariff announcements, as long as they are delivered by May 14, 2026.

USTR raised tariffs to 50% on medical face masks and surgical gloves, from an initially proposed 25%, but delayed their start to allow a shift to non-Chinese suppliers. The planned duty on Chinese syringes, which were in short supply during the COVID-19 pandemic, will immediately rise to 100% from a previously planned 50%, but USTR will allow a temporary exclusion for enteral syringes, used to feed infants, for a year.

The agency also said it will consider requests for tariff exclusions for five Chinese industrial machinery categories, including those for machinery for purifying or filtering liquids, industrial robots and printing machinery.

Shipments Of Timber Products Through Ports In
Peninsular Malaysia **August 2024**

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m³)	% change July'24/Aug'24
	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change	m³	% Change		
Sawntimber	35,251	-6	7,993	3,260	804	84	334	300	3,793	3	48,176	15
MDF	5,918	-17	6,087	59	2,280	38	1,163	-51	0	-100	15,447	3
Mouldings	14,200	-11	34	100	926	-41	2,117	72	269	10	17,547	-8
Plywood	1,112	-62	3,527	100	0	-100	270	-21	5,302	3	6,685	-22
Veneer	3,161	11	0	0	32	94	0	-100	2,710	3	3,161	11
Particleboard	18,995	21	0	0	49	162	0	0	7,259	6	26,304	17
TOTAL	78,637	-4	17,641	333	4,091	9	3,885	-4	19,334	4	123,589	10



The advertisement features a warm, inviting scene of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) sitting on a wooden rocking chair in a room with extensive wood paneling and flooring. The scene is framed by a large, stylized orange leaf shape. To the right, the Kayu Malaysia logo is displayed, featuring a stylized tree with green leaves. Below the logo, the text 'KAYU MALAYSIA' is written in large, bold, white letters, followed by the tagline 'Standing on Excellence'. Further down, the text 'A nature's blessing that evokes memories to last.' is written in white. At the top right, the logos of the Malaysian government (KEMENTERIAN PERLADANGAN DAN KOSMOLOGI) and the Malaysian Timber Bureau (LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN KAYU MALAYSIA) are visible.

3 SEPTEMBER 2024



Courtesy visit from Jabatan Standard Malaysia (JSM) to MTIB

3 SEPTEMBER 2024



"Wood Plastic Composite – Learn the Technology and Build with Innovation" programme at Kampung Mengkarak, Bera, Pahang

3-7 SEPTEMBER 2024



Malaysia Furniture Furnishings Market (MFFM) 2024

6 SEPTEMBER 2024



Courtesy visit from Terengganu Timber Industry Training Centre to MTIB

9 SEPTEMBER 2024



"Program Satu Pemimpin Satu Kampung (SANTUNI MADANI)" in Kampung Kukang, Kota Bharu Kelantan

11-12 SEPTEMBER 2024



Macau SAR China
MTIB at the Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum 2024 (GLSTF 2024) forum in China

19 SEPTEMBER 2024



Exchange of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Lembaga Kenaf dan Tembakau Negara (LKTN) and MTIB

19 SEPTEMBER 2024



Courtesy visit from Syarikat Batai Wood Industry (M) Sdn Bhd to MTIB