



MTIB Strengthens Strategic Collaboration with Nanjing Forestry University, China

 MTIB and Customs Hold Briefing on SST Expansion for Timber Industry

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MTIB Strengthens Strategic Collaboration with Nanjing Forestry University, China

Prepared by: Ts. Dr. Loh Yueh Feng

The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) has taken a significant step forward in advancing the timber and biocomposite sector through a strategic collaboration with Nanjing Forestry University (NJFU), one of China's leading research institutions in forestry, environmental sustainability, and biomass engineering.

Established in 1952 and recognised as a "Double First-Class" university in China, NJFU is renowned for its research excellence in sustainable forestry, bamboo innovation, and advanced wood-based materials. With over 30,000 students, 2,000 faculty members, and strong international partnerships spanning more than 20 countries, NJFU represents a world-class partner for MTIB in further strengthening Malaysia's timber industry.

Following an initial online meeting in August 2024 and subsequent approval from the Ministry, MTIB's official delegation visited NJFU on 7-10 July 2025 in Nanjing, China. The mission, led by MTIB Director-General YBrs. Tuan Saiful Bahri Salleh, Director of Fibre and Biocomposite Centre (FIDEC) MTIB, a senior researcher and advisors from the Ministry as well as forestry experts.

The programme included a strategic meeting, facility visits, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MTIB and NJFU, which sets the framework

for joint research, knowledge exchange, and innovation in sustainable timber products as well as bamboo and biomass applications.

The MTIB-NJFU partnership aims to formalise cooperation through the signing of the MoU and to strengthen R&D as well as commercialisation in timber and biocomposites. It also seeks to facilitate knowledge transfer on the sustainable use of oil palm trunk (OPT), bamboo and plantation timber, while promoting Malaysian timber products within the Chinese research and industrial ecosystem. In addition, the partnership is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles to ensure long-term industry sustainability.

During the bilateral meeting, NJFU presented advanced research on bamboo utilisation in construction, fast-growing plantation species, and biomass innovation. In the area of bamboo technology, discussions focused on advanced processing, preservation, and structural applications, with opportunities for Malaysia to accelerate its bamboo industry through technology transfer and technical training. On fast-growing species and forest plantation management, NJFU shared AI-driven monitoring systems for plantation growth and health, which could be adapted in Malaysia to secure a sustainable raw material supply. Both parties also explored the potential of OPT as a high-value biomass for furniture,



The bilateral Meeting between NJFU and MTIB held on 7 July 2025



The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the President of NJFU and the Director-General of MTIB



Token of Appreciation Exchange Session



Photo Session in Front of the Bamboo Building at NJFU

building materials, and consumer products, noting that Malaysia's abundant OPT resources offer strong prospects for commercialisation.

Both parties agreed to proceed with the next steps which included short-term joint research projects, researcher exchanges, technical training, and co-organised workshops. A proposal to establish a Joint Research Laboratory either in FIDEC, Malaysia or NJFU is also under consideration.

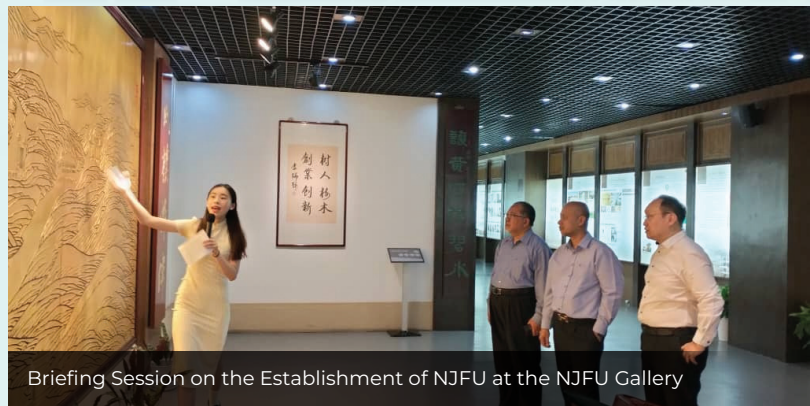
As part of the visit, the MTIB delegation toured two prominent bamboo and WPC (wood-plastic composite) product manufacturers in Anji, the "Bamboo Town of China":

- I. Zhejiang Fenghui Bamboo & Wood Products Co. Ltd. – a global exporter of bamboo-based kitchenware, handicrafts, and eco-products, showcasing traditional bamboo craft blended with automation.
- II. Anji Zheng Yuan WPC (BAMMAX) – a leading innovator in eco-friendly WPC products, exporting to over 60 countries, with applications in construction, landscaping, and outdoor living.

The visits demonstrated how traditional values, innovation, and sustainability can co-exist in a globally competitive industry — an inspiring model for Malaysia's own green economy ambitions.

The MTIB-NJFU collaboration marks a new era of strategic partnership between Malaysia and China in the field of timber, bamboo, and biomass innovation. By combining Malaysia's abundant natural resources with NJFU's world-class research capabilities, this partnership is expected to unlock new opportunities in sustainable materials, low-carbon solutions, and green product commercialisation.

This partnership underscores MTIB's commitment to championing innovation, sustainability, and global competitiveness in Malaysia's timber industry, positioning it as a future-ready sector aligned with the National Agricommodities Policy 2030 and the National Timber Industry Strategic Plan.



Briefing Session on the Establishment of NJFU at the NJFU Gallery



Visit to Anji Zheng Yuan WPC Decoration Material Co., Ltd. (BAMMAX)



Photo Session at the Entrance of Zhejiang Fengshui Bamboo & Wood Products Co. Ltd. Factory



MTIB and Customs Hold Briefing on SST Expansion for Timber Industry

Prepared by: Encik Husaini Ghani



The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD), held a special industry briefing on 31 July 2025 at Dewan Persidangan MTIB to update timber companies on the expanded Sales and Service Tax (SST) framework, which officially came into effect on 1 July 2025.

“The event also aimed to help the industry gain a better understanding of the implementation and scope expansion of SST so that it can be carried out by all parties and ensure a smooth adaptation to the regulatory changes.”

MTIB Director General, Encik Saiful Bahri Salleh, in his welcoming speech, said the briefing was part of the agency's role in supporting industry compliance while safeguarding the competitiveness of Malaysia's timber sector, which remains a key contributor to national exports. He also emphasised that an accurate understanding of the industry is crucial to facilitate operations and ensure compliance with government directives.

The half-day briefing was conducted in a hybrid format, seamlessly integrating in-person attendance and virtual participation, allowing broader engagement across the sector. The session attracted 250 participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities, timber associations, exporters, manufacturers, and downstream operators.

Customs officials shared several important updates relevant to the timber industry:

-  **Sales Tax Adjustments:** Certain timber-based products and machinery may now fall under the 5% or 10% tax categories.
-  **Service Tax Expansion:** Activities such as machinery leasing, construction-related services, and logistics support for timber products may be subject to expanded service tax rates.
-  **Grace Period:** Businesses have until 31 December 2025 to comply without penalties, provided they show efforts to register and submit returns.

Participants raised questions regarding SST applicability to exports, intermediate timber products, and small-scale operators. RMCD clarified that exports remain zero-rated, and micro and small businesses below the income threshold are not required to register. MTIB reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with RMCD to provide technical guidance, answer FAQs, and provide continuous support to timber companies during the transition period.

Among the speakers from the RMCD were Encik Ariff Yusoff Wanteh Kamal and Puan Farah Asniza Ahmad Sabri.

The briefing provided participants with valuable insights into SST concepts, tax rates, and implementation procedures, helping to ensure regulatory compliance and reduce operational errors. 





JUNE 2025

☞ Malaysia's timber and timber products exported in June 2025 fell by 12% to RM1.62 billion, weighed down by lower shipments of sawntimber (-15%), plywood (-19%) and wooden furniture (-12%). The total export for January-June 2025 amounted to RM10.64 billion, a decline of 7% compared to RM11.43 billion in the same period last year. Wooden furniture, the largest single-timber export product, recorded RM4.58 billion in the first six months, down 2% year-on-year. Other major products also posted contractions, including veneer (-44%), fibreboard (-17%) and sawn timber (-10%), reflecting slower demand in key markets. In contrast, bright spots were seen in rattan furniture which expanded by 14% to RM36.5 million and builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC) products which grew 8% to RM668.6 million. ☹

Malaysia's timber and timber products industry in early 2025 continued to face a challenging external environment shaped by the global economic scenario. High interest rates, persistent inflation, and slower housing starts in key markets have dampened overall consumption, particularly for discretionary items such as furniture and timber and timber products. Although industry outlooks suggest steady long-term growth supported by demographic trends, urbanisation, and e-commerce expansion, short-term recovery remains uneven. In the United States, for example, demand is showing tentative signs of improvement on the back of easing mortgage rates and better housing activity, but market confidence is still fragile. These conditions are further complicated by the introduction of reciprocal tariffs on selected imported goods, including timber-related products, which has raised costs for importers and weighed on new orders from Malaysia.

At the same time, global furniture and housing market dynamics remain uneven. While demand in North America shows resilience, the European market has been slower to rebound due to softer economic growth and lingering inflation. Industry analysts suggest that structural drivers such as rising home ownership, expansion of e-commerce channels, and sustained demand for home and office furniture are expected to support medium-term growth. However, current market conditions point to weaker demand indicators and declining order volumes, with parts of the international furniture trade already experiencing a mild recession. These macroeconomic pressures, combined with tariff-related uncertainties, supply chain adjustments, and geopolitical risks, have contributed to the mixed performance of Malaysia's timber exports in 2025.

SAWNTIMBER

Total sawntimber exports in June 2025 declined to 144,713 m³ with a value of RM184.14 million, representing a 6% drop in volume and a 15% fall in value compared to the 154,437 m³ worth RM215.30 million exported in May 2025. Cumulative exports from January to June 2025 reached 591,378 m³ worth RM981.90 million, showing a 16% increase in volume but a 10% drop in value compared to 509,495 m³ and RM1,089.47 million during the same period in 2024.

Exports to the European Union surged by 69% to 55,365 m³. This was driven mainly by Greece, which posted a sharp increase of 500% to 52,704 m³. In contrast, the Netherlands saw a 38% decrease to 1,240 m³, while Belgium dropped 19% to 482 m³. Exports to the United Kingdom also decreased by 17% to 1,079 m³.

In South Asia, shipments contracted by 20% to 10,263 m³. India's imports fell 14% to 5,209 m³, the Maldives dropped 51% to 1,704 m³, and Sri Lanka slipped 17% to 1,928 m³.

Exports to West Asia declined by 55% to 8,226 m³. The UAE recorded a slight dip of 2% to 4,599 m³, while Iraq's imports rose by 53% to 1,567 m³. In contrast, Saudi Arabia dropped 43% to 516 m³.

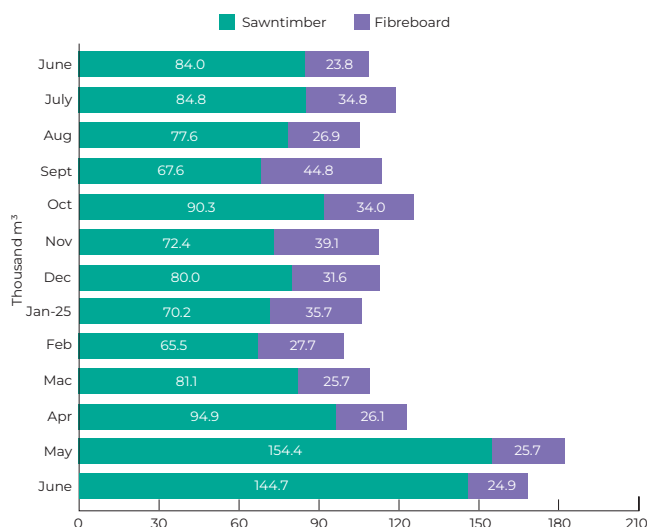
In East Asia, exports grew 3% to 51,630 m³. China saw a decrease of 11% to 41,003 m³, while Taiwan surged nearly eightfold (792%) to 7,237 m³. Japan also posted a moderate rise of 9% to 2,113 m³.

☞ Shipments to ASEAN markets dropped sharply by 46% to 12,399 m³. The Philippines' imports plunged 65% to 2,339 m³, Thailand's buying fell by 43% to 4,061 m³, while Singapore decreased buying by 30% to 5,139 m³. ☹

Exports to Africa jumped 171% to 3,487 m³, led by South Africa with a surge of 292% to 3,101 m³, while Mauritius increased buying by 15% to 386 m³. In contrast, North America's imports slumped by 88% to 1,650 m³, with shipments to the United States dropping to 1,581 m³. In the Oceania/Pacific region, exports fell by 36% to 615 m³, with Australia down 35% to 585 m³, and New Zealand with a slight increase to 20 m³.

The average FOB price for overall sawntimber declined by 9%, from RM1,394 per m³ in May to RM1,272 per m³ in June. By species, Dark Red Meranti (DRM) exports inched up 2% to 2,196 m³, Keruing exports increased more than threefold (315%) to 2,672 m³, while DRM exports to the Netherlands slipped 5% to 2,969 m³.

Malaysia: Export of Sawn Timber and MDF



Setra Group has announced that 50 employees at its Hasselfors sawmill in Laxå, Örebro County, will be laid off as the company reduces its workforce from 107 to 57 positions and cuts production to just over half capacity, citing continued weakness in the global construction market and economic uncertainty that has pressured pricing. CEO Marcus Westdahl described the move as a necessary step to reduce cost and ensure long-term sustainability, while noting the situation could shift if the lumber market improves. In Q2 2025, Setra posted an operating loss of SEK -60 million (€ -5.45 million), compared to a SEK 31 million (€ 2.82 million) profit a year earlier. The Hasselfors mill, established in 1908 and managed by Jonas Fintling, produces sawn wood and planed construction timber for markets including Sweden, the UK, the USA, Germany, France, and Japan. In 2023, it processed around 306,000 m³ of timber.

PLYWOOD

Export for plywood in June 2025 recorded a decrease of 26% in volume at 75,737 m³ and a 19% decrease in value to RM155.7 million as compared to the previous month. The cumulative exports for the period of January – June 2025 showed a decrease of 1% in volume to 546,983 m³ and a 12% decrease in value totalling at RM1.1 billion over the previous corresponding period. The EU region recorded a decreasing trend for plywood export of 32% from 2,384 m³ to 1,619 m³. The Netherlands increased its purchase by 482% to 256 m³. Poland decreased its buying by 37% to 232 m³ while Germany did not make any purchase for the month. In other parts of Europe, exports recorded an increase of 75% to 11,214 m³ from 6,405 m³ in the previous month. Plywood purchases by the UK increased by 182% to 8,114 m³ while Türkiye reduced its buying by 17% to 2,911 m³.

Moving to the East Asia market, volume declined by 30% to 44,870 m³ from 64,371 m³ in May. Japan as the largest importer from the region decreased its buying by 30% to

39,059 m³, followed by Taiwan with a decrease of 53% to 2,298 m³. South Korea increased its imports by 10% to 3,050 m³. In the ASEAN region, import also decreased by 29% from 5,098 m³ to 3,639 m³. Plywood export to Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore dropped by 47% to 1,069 m³, 92% to 52 m³ and 8% to 1,987 m³ respectively.

In the South Asia region, plywood purchases recorded a decrease of 55% from 193 m³ to 86 m³. India and Maldives decreased their imports by 75% to 21 m³ and 77% to 25 m³ respectively. Pakistan resumed its purchase with 40 m³. The West Asia region also recorded a decrease of 90% to 315 m³ from 3,279 m³ in the previous month. Jordan resumed its purchase with 315 m³ while Yemen and UAE did not make any purchase for the month.

“In the Africa region, plywood export recorded an increase of 100% from 107 m³ to 214 m³.

South Africa increased its buying by 34% to 86 m³ while Mauritius did not make any purchase for the month. The North America region showed a decrease of 36% from 18,509 m³ to 11,843 m³. The USA as the main buyer, reduced its purchases by 38% to 10,316 m³, followed by Mexico with a decrease of 21% to 1,403 m³. However, Canada increased its import by 58% to 125 m³. In the Oceania/Pacific region, plywood export declined by 5% from 2,037 m³ to 1,936 m³ with purchases from Australia at 1,805 m³.”

The FOB price of plywood for June 2025 stood at RM2,056 per m³, a decrease of 7% from RM2,203 per m³ from the previous month.

In 2024, Dutch construction output fell by 2.9%, primarily due to a decrease in building permits and weak residential sales from the previous year, resulting in a sharp contraction in early 2024. However, construction volumes started to recover, increasing by 0.5% in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the previous quarter. More Dutch builders are planning to raise their sales prices in 2025. In June 2025, 34% of all construction companies reported their intention to implement price increases. This decision is driven by a slight uptick in demand and increased volumes, which have reduced competition. While material costs remain relatively stable, wage costs are increasing considerably and there is sufficient demand to be able to pass them on customers.

VENEER

Export of veneer for June 2025 decreased in volume by 2% to 1,943 m³ and in value by 19% to RM3.9 million as compared to the previous month. Cumulative exports for January – June 2025 showed a decrease in both volume and value by 37% to 13,902 m³ and 44% to RM27.6 million over the previous corresponding period.

ASEAN recorded an increase in veneer import by 44% from 27 m³ to 39 m³ with the new purchases being from Viet Nam. Meanwhile, Singapore did not make any purchase this month. In East Asia, export decreased by 9% from 1,149 m³ to 1,043 m³. China increased its veneer import by 83% to 937 m³ while Japan reduced its buying by 84% to 70 m³.

South Korea did not make any purchase for the month. Meanwhile, South Asia recorded a 22% from 433 m³ to 530 m³. Veneer export to India increased by 41% to 497 m³ while Bangladesh reduced its buying by 59% to 33 m³.

Moving to North America, veneer exports recorded a decrease of 18% to 283 m³ from 346 m³. The USA reduced its buying by 10% to 283 m³ while Canada did not make any purchase for the month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, Australia increased its purchases by 234% to 48 m³ while the EU and Africa did not make any purchase for the month.

The average FOB price for veneer decreased by 16% from RM2,379 per m³ to RM1,989 per m³ as compared to previous month.

China has announced wide ranging measures to assist its ailing property sector. He Lifeng (vice premier and the Communist Party's top economic official) wants municipal governments to buy unsold homes and convert them into affordable social housing. To facilitate this, in a coordinated move, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) announced it will establish a nationwide programme to provide 300 billion yuan (USD41.5 billion) in loans to fund this state purchase of unsold homes. The central government will also encourage commercial banks to support local state-owned enterprises to buy unsold homes in an effort to raise the potential capital input to USD69 billion. While share prices have been increasing any increase in construction will likely be muted.

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in June 2025 recorded a 3% decrease in volume at 24,855 m³ and 6% decrease in value at RM48.8 million compared to the previous month. Similarly, cumulative exports for the period of January – June 2025 recorded a decrease in volume by 17% to 165,783 m³ and in value by 17% totalling at RM310.6 million as compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

Export to ASEAN decreased by 11% from 5,157 m³ to 4,600 m³ in the previous month. The Philippines and Indonesia reduced their imports by 46% and 8% to 1,764 m³ and 875 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Viet Nam increased its import by 13% to 891 m³.

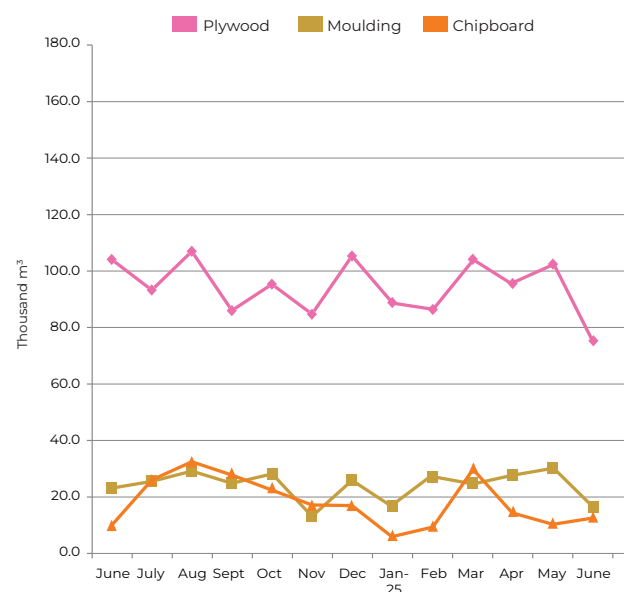
Elsewhere, East Asia purchases of MDF increased by 16% from 10,340 m³ to 12,037 m³ in the previous month. Imports of MDF from Taiwan and South Korea recorded a reduction by 42% and 34% to 385 m³ and 292 m³ respectively. Japan increased its sales by 23% to 11,335 m³. Moving to the South Asia market, export also increased by 5% from 1,028 m³ to 1,079 m³. Export performance to Pakistan declined by 40% to 450 m³ while India increased its volume by 83% to 464 m³. Nepal resumed its buying with 16 m³.

Export to the West Asia region recorded a decrease of 10% from 3,910 m³ to 3,502 m³ compared to the previous month. The UAE reduced orders by 2% to 2,894 m³ while Saudi Arabia resumed purchases with 209 m³. Yemen did not make any purchase for the month. In other parts of Europe, the UK decreased its purchases by 77% to 19 m³. On the other hand, countries of the EU, Central America and South America regions did not make any purchase for Malaysian MDF for the month.

Export to the Oceania/Pacific region recorded a decrease of 25% to 1,356 m³ from 1,818 m³. Australia decreased its purchases by 27% to 1,292 m³ while New Zealand maintained the buying to 43 m³. MDF import in North America also showed a decrease of 33% from 3,197 m³ to 2,145 m³ compared to the previous month. The MDF purchases by the USA, Canada and Mexico decreased by 16% to 1,418 m³, 79% to 176 m³ and 21% to 550 m³ respectively. In the Africa region, MDF purchases recorded an increase of 179% to 117 m³ with purchases from South Africa being at 53 m³ while Mauritius resumed purchases with 32 m³.

The average FOB price of MDF increased by 10% to RM1,964 per m³ from RM1,784 per m³ in the previous month.

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



According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the average construction material price index (CMPI) rose by 1.8% year-on-year (YoY) in January – April 2025, while the value of residential building plans passed in the country declined by 9.9% YoY in January – March 2025. This industry also faces added pressure from the USA tariffs disrupting supply chains, leading to material shortages and higher import costs. The South African construction industry is expected to register an annual growth of 3.5% between 2026 and 2029, supported by allocations as part of the country's Financial Year 2025-2026 Budget, in which the government is estimated to spend ZAR2.6 trillion (USD137.7 billion) in the current financial year. Additionally, the government's plan to increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy mix from 22% in 2024 to 42% by 2030, will also support the industry's growth over the next remainder of the forecast period.

MOULDINGS

The export of mouldings in June 2025 decreased by 19% in volume, reaching 18,909 m³ and by 26% in value, amounting to RM63.0 million as compared to May 2025. For the cumulative period January to June 2025, exports of mouldings were down by 6% for both in volume and value to 0.1 million m³ worth RM445.0 million over the same period 2024.

Exports to ASEAN countries increased by 28% to 955 m³ in June 2025, up from 744 m³ in May 2025. Exports to Singapore rose by 35% to 829 m³ while Viet Nam increased its intake by 571% to 107 m³ from previous month.

In the East Asia region, export of mouldings was recorded at 1,144 m³ in June 2025, a reduction of 25% from 1,515 m³ in the previous month. Exports to Japan and Republic of Korea declined by 29% to 561 m³ and 31% to 448 m³, respectively. Meanwhile, export to Hong Kong increased by 28% to 69 m³ from 54 m³ in May 2025.

In the South Asia region, export volume showed a declining trend, with intake down by 36% to 80 m³ in June 2025 compared to the previous month. This decline was driven by reduced demand from the Maldives which dropped buying by 91% to 9 m³. However, India increased its intake by 163% with 71 m³ in June 2025 while export to the UAE dropped by 50% to 18 m³ for the month.

Exports to the EU showed an upward trend, increasing by 798% to 3,726 m³ in June 2025 compared to 415 m³ in May 2025. Italy recorded a significant increase in imports for the month of June 2025, with 823 m³, an up by 146% from 335 m³ in May 2025. Meanwhile, exports to the Netherlands and France dropped by 58% to 1,609 m³ and by 32% to 469 m³ while, intake from the UK decreased by 52% to 200 m³ for the month.

In the Oceania and Pacific region, total exports decreased by 17%, reaching 813 m³ in June 2025 compared to 981 m³ in May 2025 due to reduced intake by Australia. The country recorded a decrease of 16% to 807 m³ for the month as compared to 955 m³ in the previous month.

In North America, total demand decreased by 11% to 11,597 m³ in June 2025 compared to the previous month. Export to the USA declined by 9% to 11,441 m³, while export to Canada also reduced by 68% to 157 m³ for the month.

In the Africa region, total exports increased by 12% to 377 m³ compared to 337 m³ in May 2025. Exports to Mauritius and South Africa both grew by 5% to 229 m³ and by 87% to 148 m³ for the month.

The average FOB unit value for mouldings for June 2025 increased by 10% to RM3,329/m³ compared to RM3,024/m³ in May 2025.

'The United States Moulding & Trim Market Size and Key Highlights 2025' report by the Verified Market Reports, a digital market analysis platform, states that moulding &

trim market revenue was valued at USD150 billion in 2024 and is estimated to reach USD220 billion by 2033, growing at a CAGR of 4.5% from 2026 to 2033. The moulding & trim market is influenced by factors such as construction activities, consumer preferences for home renovations, and the growth of the real estate industry, which is currently experiencing significant expansion across various regions. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the construction industry saw an annual growth rate of 5.4% in 2023, driving a corresponding rise in demand for moulding and trim products.

“The moulding and trim market has witnessed steady growth over the past decade, as consumers increasingly seek premium materials that elevate the design and functionality of their living and working environments. The market has also been impacted by changing trends in home design, with a rising preference for eco-friendly materials such as sustainable wood, polyurethane, and MDF, which are now in demand for their durability and cost-effectiveness. In 2023, the global market for moulding and trim materials was valued at approximately USD14 billion and is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.5% through 2030.”

One key driver of the moulding and trim market expansion is the increasing demand for luxury home improvements, especially in North America and Europe. This trend has been especially pronounced in the custom moulding and trim segment, where consumers are willing to invest in high-end, tailored designs that reflect their personal tastes. The moulding and trim market finds applications across multiple industries, from residential and commercial real estate to hospitality and retail. In residential construction, trims are a popular feature in home renovations and new builds, with a growing emphasis on sustainable materials. Commercial real estate also contributes to market demand, particularly in office spaces and retail outlets where aesthetics play a significant role in branding and customer experience. Additionally, the hospitality industry, including hotels and resorts, frequently uses moulding and trim to enhance the overall luxury appeal of their properties. The consistent demand from these diverse industries, along with a rising trend toward sustainable and eco-friendly materials, ensures the moulding and trim market remains a vital component of the broader construction and interior design landscape.



BUILDERS JOINERY CARPENTRY

The total export of builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC) in June 2025 dropped by 7% in volume to 12.3 million kg and by 14% in value to RM108.1 million, whereas in the cumulative period of January – June 2025, export of BJC increased by 12% in volume to 72.1 million kg and 8% in value worth RM668.6 million as compared to the previous corresponding period in 2024.

Shipments of BJC to ASEAN are valued at RM44.3 million, a decrease of 36% from RM69.6 million in the same corresponding period 2024. Singapore as the main buyer decreased its buying by 51%, valuing at RM24.9 million as compared to the previous year. Similarly, there were cutbacks on exports to Viet Nam by 44% worth RM4.1 million. However, export to Thailand increased by 25% worth RM8.8 million for the period of January - June 2025.

As for East Asia region, exports decreased by 21% from RM48.3 million to RM38.1 million. Japan, despite being the main buyer in this region dropped its buying by 13% to RM29.9 million from RM34.5 million over the same corresponding period. Similarly, exports to China and Taiwan also decreased by 47% worth RM3.6 million and by 51% to RM2.2 million respectively.

Exports to South Asia totalled at RM11.1 million, a decrease of 52% from RM23.1 million in the corresponding period 2024. Both India and Maldives decreased their imports by 44% amounting to RM7.7 million and by 62% worth RM1.4 million respectively. Similarly, Bangladesh dropped its purchases by 68% from RM0.6 million to RM0.2 million in the period of January - June 2025.

As for West Asia region, the total exports of BJC grew significantly by 471%, totalling at to RM11.0 million as compared to RM1.9 million from the previous year. The main buyer from this region was Saudi Arabia with a total purchase of RM10.1 million, increased tremendously from RM0.2 million in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, demand from Kuwait also increased by 600% at RM49,593 for the stated period. Meanwhile, export to the UAE dropped by 58% to RM0.7 million from RM1.8 million in the period of January – June 2024.

☞ Total exports of BJC to the European Union region grew by 14%, from RM119.1 million to RM135.2 million. Intake from Belgium increased by 54% worth RM51.3 million, followed by the Netherlands with export increased by 1% valued at RM42.5 million. However, intake from France dropped by 18% to RM7.0 million for the stated period. Meanwhile, the imports by other countries in Europe declined by 16% with a total amount of RM65.3 million. The United Kingdom decreased its intake by 13% valued at RM62.4 million. Buying from Norway and Türkiye also dropped by 53% to RM2.5 million and by 50% worth RM0.4 million, respectively. ☞

Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific region increased by 2% to RM112.5 million in the period of January – June 2025. Australia as the main buyer increased its purchases by 1% with a total value of RM101.6 million from RM100.9 million in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, New Zealand improved its intake by 14% worth RM8.8 million while export to Tonga decreased by 45% to RM0.2 million for the stated period.

Shipments to North America increased by 50%, amounting to RM246.3 million with the USA as the main buyer from this region increasing its purchases by 50% at a total value of RM243.8 million. However, intake from Canada dropped by 29% valued at RM2.1 million.

Shipments to Africa on the other hand, decreased by 15% to RM4.9 million in the period of January – June 2025. There was a decrease of 10% on exports of BJC to South Africa, reduced from RM3.2 million to RM2.9 million. Similarly, Mauritius dropped its purchase by 58% to RM0.5 million, while Morocco increased its intake by 369% worth RM0.6 million for the cumulative period of January – June 2025.

New research from the British Woodworking Federation (BWF) based in the UK reveals that homeowners are prioritising style and sustainability in their material choices for the home, but further education around timber's benefits and sustainable choices is needed for the material to reach its full potential. The survey of 1,000 homeowners features in the BWF's members-only report, 'Championing Timber in the Home', and reveals the drivers shaping homeowner material choices and how broader trends such as sustainability are beginning to influence the repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI) market. Directly aligned with timber's inherent properties, the research found that 91% of homeowners prioritise aesthetics, 92% of homeowners value durability, and 77% consider environmental impact when selecting a material for the home. Yet despite timber's clear credentials, there's a perception gap surrounding its performance with only 14% of homeowners viewing timber as energy efficient, and only 12% believing it performs best in terms of lifespan.

Positively the data found that homeowners already feature and have trust in timber in key areas of the home. For example, 66% of homeowners have timber staircases, and 27% have timber external doors, demonstrating familiarity and understanding of its functionality and visual appeal. Added to this, more than half of homeowners say timber is the best choice for heritage or conservation areas, and 37% rank it as the most attractive window material. However, the research also found that 41% of homeowners say they lack knowledge when selecting sustainable products, and over a quarter (26%) are unsure which sustainability credentials to look for. A clear example of this is that only 35% of homeowners recognise sustainable timber certifications like Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). These crucial certifications provide confidence that forests are being effectively managed environmentally, socially and economically. This, alongside a lack of awareness of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) (32%) underlines a clear opportunity for education to help consumers understand the certifications and factors that demonstrate sustainable performance. The findings come as the UK accelerates its focus on decarbonising the

construction industry through frameworks such as the Future Homes Standard, the Timber in Construction Roadmap and Wales' first Timber Industrial Strategy - Making Wood Work for Wales, which prioritise energy efficiency and sustainable material use. Timber products, with their low embodied carbon and exceptional thermal performance, are well-positioned to help meet these ambitions.

FURNITURE

The total export value of wooden furniture in June 2025 decreased by 12% to RM712.3 million compared to RM810.9 million in May 2025. Meanwhile, cumulative exports for January–June 2025 stood at RM4.58 billion, representing a slight decline of 2% from RM4.68 billion recorded in the same period in 2024.

Shipments of wooden furniture to ASEAN were valued at RM562.1 million, a 6% decrease from RM596.7 million in the corresponding period of 2024. Singapore, as the main buyer, increased its purchases by 9% to RM377.7 million compared to the previous year. However, exports to the Philippines and Thailand contracted by 24% and 3%, valued at RM102.8 million and RM33.7 million respectively.

“ In the East Asia region, exports rose by 3% from RM266.8 million to RM274.9 million. Japan, the leading buyer from this region, increased its purchases by 11% to RM226.2 million. Meanwhile, exports to Taiwan fell by 10% to RM22.1 million, while sales to South Korea dropped by 28% to RM13.2 million. ”

Exports to South Asia totalled at RM72.3 million, a 3% decrease from RM74.9 million in 2024. India recorded a marginal increase of 0.3% to RM67.5 million, while Maldives saw a sharp drop of 38% to RM3.6 million. Conversely, Bangladesh registered a significant increase of 222%, rising to RM0.4 million from RM0.13 million.

For Central Asia, exports decreased by 35% to RM1.4 million. Kazakhstan's imports dropped by 30% to RM1.3 million, while no shipments were recorded to Armenia and Uzbekistan compared to the previous year.

As for the West Asia region, total exports of wooden furniture decreased by 5% to RM232.9 million compared to RM244.2 million in the previous year. Saudi Arabia increased its imports by 5% to RM87.5 million while Oman recorded a notable 48% growth to RM13.3 million. However, exports to the UAE decreased by 17% to RM95.7 million.

Exports to the European Union fell by 19% from RM194.3 million to RM157.8 million. Belgium's intake decreased by 11% to RM18.2 million, France reduced intake by 13% to RM19.5 million while Poland dropped intake sharply by 32% to RM13.7 million. In other parts of Europe, there was a 5% decline to RM232.9 million. The United Kingdom, as the main buyer, decreased purchases by 2% to RM216.6 million, while Georgia reduced by 1% to RM6.2 million and Türkiye by 57% to RM4.2 million.

Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific region decreased by 20% to RM228.5 million. Australia, the main buyer, recorded a 20% decline to RM202.5 million. New Zealand's intake fell by

20% to RM15.1 million, while Papua New Guinea experienced a steep 63% drop to RM3.1 million.

In the Central America region, exports fell by 32% to RM18.7 million. Panama, as the largest buyer in the region, recorded a slight decrease of 9% to RM8.0 million. Exports to El Salvador dropped by 31% to RM3.3 million, while Guatemala fell by 16% to RM4.5 million.

Exports to North America increased by 3% amounting to RM2.70 billion. Shipments to the USA, the main market, grew by 4% to RM2.43 billion. Canada registered a slight decline of 2% to RM196.2 million, while Puerto Rico recorded a strong growth of 51% to RM40.2 million.

For South America, exports decreased by 29% to RM37.4 million. Chile recorded a 40% drop to RM19.4 million, Venezuela declined by 18% to RM1.4 million while Peru reduced buying by 24% to RM7.5 million.

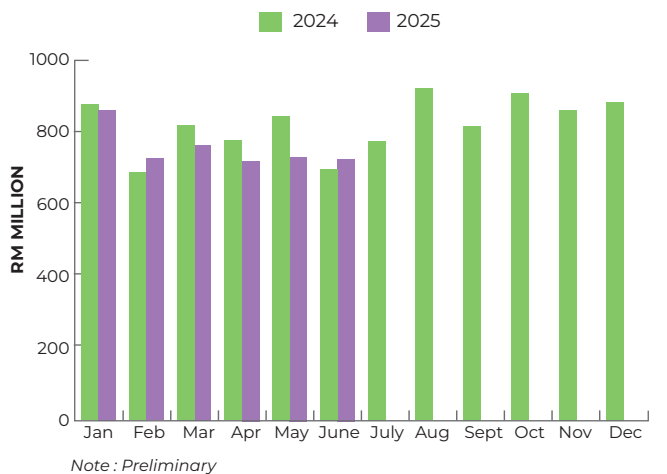
Exports to Africa dropped by 12% to RM65.7 million. South Africa, as the largest buyer in the region, reduced its purchases by 15% to RM19.6 million. Imports by Reunion Islands decreased by 26% to RM5.9 million, while Kenya fell by 9% to RM5.5 million.

Exports of rattan furniture to the ASEAN region recorded a sharp decline of 51%, valued at RM2.31 million compared to RM4.68 million in the same period last year. Singapore, the main importer in this region, reduced its intake by 40% to RM0.77 million. Exports to Thailand fell by 53% to RM0.20 million, while shipments to Indonesia surged by 340% to RM0.16 million.

Exports to the East Asia region increased significantly by 43% to RM0.99 million, with Japan as the largest buyer. Shipments to Japan rose by 59% to RM0.60 million, while exports to Hong Kong jumped by 1,486% to RM0.09 million. In contrast, exports to China declined by 73% to RM0.07 million.

In the South Asia region, India was the only market for Malaysia's rattan furniture, although exports decreased by 19% to RM0.37 million compared to RM0.45 million last year.

Malaysia: Export of Wooden Furniture



Exports to the West Asia region rose by 39% to RM3.05 million. The UAE, the largest buyer in this region, reduced its purchases by 27% to RM0.88 million. In contrast, Iran recorded a strong increase of 304% to RM0.33 million, while Qatar's imports fell by 27% to RM0.03 million.

Shipments to the European Union increased strongly by 70% to RM8.49 million. Poland's purchases surged by 522% to RM0.64 million, while the Netherlands grew by 17% to RM0.36 million. France, however, recorded a slight decline of 10% to RM1.15 million. In other parts of Europe, exports dropped by 33% to RM2.39 million. The United Kingdom, the largest buyer in this group, reduced its imports by 30% to RM2.19 million. Russia's purchases fell by 53% to RM0.09 million, while Switzerland resumed imports valued at RM0.001 million.

Exports to the Oceania/Pacific region fell by 7% to RM1.54 million. Australia, the main market, recorded a 3% decline to RM1.43 million. No shipments were recorded to Fiji or New Caledonia during this period, compared to the previous year.

No shipments were recorded to Central America during the first half of 2025, compared to RM0.02 million in the same period of 2024.

Shipments to North America rose by 30% to RM16.33 million. The USA, as the main market, increased its intake by 37% to RM14.41 million, while Canada saw strong growth of 55% to RM0.99 million. In contrast, the Dominican Republic registered a decline of 9% to RM0.48 million.

In South America, exports grew by 22% to RM0.47 million, with Chile as the sole destination, recording a 39% increase in purchases. Exports to Africa dropped by 11% to RM0.52 million. Kenya, the only market in this region, reduced its imports by 17% to RM0.07 million.

The Mordor Intelligence report projects steady growth for the United States furniture market, estimating its expansion from USD 193.60 billion in 2025 to USD 232.61 billion by 2030, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 3.74%. The analysis underscores that the home

furniture segment continues to dominate with more than 60% of the total market share, reflecting sustained consumer focus on residential living spaces. Wood remains the most preferred material due to its durability and aesthetic appeal, while upholstered and metal furniture are also gaining traction in niche markets. The report further notes that growth is concentrated in the mid-range and premium price categories, supported by rising disposable incomes and evolving lifestyle preferences. Another significant trend is the integration of omnichannel distribution models, where retailers combine physical outlets with strong online platforms to meet shifting consumer purchasing patterns. In terms of geography, the Southeast and Western regions of the United States are highlighted as particularly strong growth areas, supported by population growth and real estate development.

The Verified Market Research report provides a slightly different perspective, valuing the U.S. furniture market at approximately USD 240 billion, with projections to reach USD 330 billion by 2032. This forecast corresponds to a compound annual growth rate of about 4% between 2025 and 2032, suggesting consistent upward momentum. Several demand drivers are emphasised, including rising home ownership rates, an expanding real estate sector, and the rapid growth of e-commerce channels, which are reshaping how consumers purchase furniture. The report also points to the growing importance of home office furniture, as hybrid and remote working patterns continue to influence consumer demand. Furthermore, sustainability considerations are increasingly shaping buying behaviour, with greater attention given to environmentally responsible sourcing and certifications. Overall, the report conveys that the U.S. furniture market is expected to maintain solid growth, driven by a combination of demographic, economic, and structural factors that are steadily reshaping the industry landscape.

MTIB




KEMENTERIAN PERLADANGAN
DAN KOMODITI


LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN
KAYU MALAYSIA

**KAYU
MALAYSIA**
Standing on Excellence

**Becoming a legacy
over generations...**



THE UNTAPPED POTENTIALS OF KENYA



OVERVIEW

KENYA is located in East Africa with a projected population of approximately 53.33 million, according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), being the 27th most populous country in the world and the 7th most populous in Africa. Kenya's capital and largest city is Nairobi. The second largest and oldest city is Mombasa, a major port city located on Mombasa Island. Kenya is bordered by South Sudan to the northwest, Ethiopia to the north, Somalia to the east, the Indian Ocean to the southeast, Tanzania to the southwest, and Lake Victoria and Uganda to the west. Kenya's geography, climate and population vary widely. In western rift valley counties, the landscape includes cold, snow-capped mountaintops (such as Batian, Nelion, and Point Lenana on Mount Kenya) with vast surrounding forests, wildlife, and fertile agricultural regions in temperate climates. In other areas, there are dry, arid, and semi-arid climates, as well as absolute deserts.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Statista, Kenya's nominal GDP per capita for 2025 is estimated at USD2,468, whilst the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) adjusted GDP per capita is forecast to be around USD7,534. Kenya's real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to pick up gradually in the medium term with the external sector also projected to remain stable in

the medium term. According to the latest World Bank Kenya Economic Update: Special Focus on Poverty and Distributional Impacts of Fiscal Policy in Kenya, some macroeconomic indicators have improved since 2024—including declining inflation, a stabilised exchange rate, and stronger international reserves—but the overall pace of economic growth has slowed. Kenya's economic growth is robust, with the second quarter of 2025 showing a 5.0% GDP expansion, following a 4.7% growth in 2024 and 5.6% in 2023, driven by a rebounding agriculture sector, strong performance in financial services, and increased activity in transport and construction. Kenya's economic growth in 2025 is expected to exceed official forecasts despite higher U.S. tariffs and other challenges.

The construction sector declined by 0.7% in 2024 compared to a 3.0% growth registered in 2023. The average annual inflation for construction materials and other inputs rose to 2.83% in 2024, up from 2.30% in 2023. Loans and advances from commercial banks to the construction sector declined from KSh 602.7 billion in 2023 to KSh 528.0 billion in 2024. Private employment in the sector registered a downward trend decreasing from 226.3 thousand in 2023 to 223.4 thousand employees in 2024. Public employment in the construction sector increased from 9.7 thousand employees in 2023 to 9.9 thousand employees in 2024. Overall, the economic outlook faces several downside risks, including fiscal challenges, weather, and external shocks, but there are still potential upside scenarios.



Kenya is active, promoting its national interests through multilateral diplomacy, regional integration, and economic partnerships. Kenya has been a member of the WTO since its inception in January 1995 and a member of GATT since 5 February 1964. WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2015. Nairobi serves as a major hub for intergovernmental organisations, and Kenya participates in forums like the African Union, East African Community (EAC), and the United Nations (UN), engaging in climate governance, economic development, and advocating for reforms in global financial systems. Kenya leverages economic diplomacy to attract investment, promote trade, and foster job creation, with a focus on initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and strong partnerships with the EU. The country focuses on regional peace, economic prosperity, and advancing its image as a competitive and globally integrated nation. Kenya is a member of the EAC with a population of approximately 283.7 million across the countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Congo, Uganda, and Tanzania. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) with a population of approximately 540 million. Exports and imports within member countries enjoy preferential tariff rates. EAC Member States signed a Protocol to establish a common Customs Union.



FORESTRY AND TIMBER AND TIMBER-BASED PRODUCTION

The timber industry is growing in Africa. Forests and trees play an important role in the economic, environmental and social landscape of the continent. This can be seen through the establishment of new plantations and the resultant secondary processing and value addition industries arising from increased timber resources. Furthermore, timber trade provides foreign exchange as well as a considerable amount of employment. The forest sector plays a key role in the socioeconomic development of Kenya and contributes to 3.6% to the country's GDP excluding environmental services. The sector supports the urban and rural population through the provision of wood fuel and other non-timber forest products and services. Currently, the sector provides direct jobs for up to 50,000 people and indirect jobs to approximately 600,000. The sector is largely underdeveloped, relative to its potential that can be unlocked through commercial forestry. Kenya's forest sector provides a wide range of products and services, including timber, poles, firewood, and charcoal production. Timber operations include round trees or logs for sawn timber, pulp and ply logs.

Timber for construction requires specific properties and those that are sustainably sourced. The national commercial forestry sector will require support through providing a portfolio of competitive genetic resources which also enable mitigation of risks such as pests, diseases and climate change. Timber is developed from public plantations, cooperative and private forests, and farmland. Sourcing wood from government plantations allows processors to

be licensed to run a plantation based on their capacity to harvest wood efficiently. Kenya has to make progress in the establishment of a Standards and Regulations including adopting international standards for timber grading to ensure consistency and reliability in the quality of wood used in construction and other industries.



Kenya Natural Forest
Source: UNDP



Tea estate juxtaposed with plantation and natural forest
Source: The Leaf Charity

According to UNDP Kenya in its report "Stimulating sustainable wood in Green Construction in Kenya for low carbon climate resilient development", as Kenya implements its industrial transformation programmes, the forest sector is vital to meet the growing demand for timber which is projected to increase from approximately 45 million cubic metres in 2020 to more than 50 million cubic metres by 2032. Demand for wood products is mainly driven by Government projects and businesses in key sub sectors mainly construction, energy, furniture, packaging, pulp and paper to meet the requirements of Kenya's growing population. According to the FAO, in 2023, Kenya produced around 2.5 million m³ of fuelwood, followed by charcoal 1.5 million tonnes and plywood 66,000 m³.



KENYA: PRODUCTION OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS, 2019-2023

Products	Unit	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wood fuel, coniferous	m ³	2,640,000	2,495,000	2,495,000	2,495,000	2,495,000
Wood charcoal	t	1,279,000	1,208,000	1,366,427	1,412,432	1,459,986
Plywood and LVL	m ³	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000
Veneer sheets	m ³	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Particle board	m ³	8,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000

Source: FAO Stats



KENYA - EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

In 2024, the total export of timber and timber products in Kenya amounted to USD28.8 million, an increase of 15% from USD25.1 million in the previous year. The major products exported by Kenya were wooden furniture and seats (USD13.5 million), logs (USD6.8 million), veneer (USD4.9 million) and fibreboard (USD1.4 million). According to ITC-UNCOMTRADE, Kenya mainly exported its timber products (HS44) to Rwanda at the value of USD7.2 million, followed by China, Tanzania and the USA with a total value of USD4.2 million, USD1.3 million and USD0.5 million, respectively. Malaysia ranked 8th as an importer for Kenya's timber products, amounting to USD133 thousand in 2024. Meanwhile, for wooden furniture and seats, the largest buyers for Kenyan-made furniture were South Sudan, Democratic Rep. of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda and Somalia. Malaysia ranked 46th in the Kenya's list of export destinations for wooden furniture and seats.

KENYA: EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS, 2020-2024

USD '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden Furniture and seats	7,278	9,418	11,474	12,751	13,540
Logs	26	106	533	2,655	6,769
Veneer	31	52	869	5,348	4,869
Fibreboard	3,561	4,503	3,911	1,990	1,445
Sawntimber	9	83	9	18	189
Wood marquetry	656	670	1,328	713	712
Hoopwood	26	33	24	60	224
Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	153	107	111	192	224
Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	51	70	86	73	178
Plywood	78	159	115	58	160
Other products	415	811	657	1,256	514
TOTAL	12,284	16,012	19,117	25,114	28,824

Source: ITC Stats





KENYA - IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

In 2024, Kenya's overall imports of timber and timber products had an increment of 10% with a total amount of USD208.6 million from USD188.8 million recorded in 2023. The country mainly imports wooden furniture and seats, followed by sawntimber, fibreboard and plywood. The total importation for wooden furniture amounted to USD81.6 million, an increase of 2% from the amount in the previous corresponding year. Similarly, imports of sawntimber and fibreboard increased by 7% and 18%, valued at USD44.4 million and USD32.7 million respectively, as compared from the previous year. According to ITC-UNCOMTRADE, Uganda, Tanzania, Democratic Rep. of Congo, China and Pakistan are the top supplying countries of timber and timber products (HS44) to Kenya, while Malaysia ranks 22nd top supplying country. Likewise, for furniture (HS9403), Kenya mainly sources from China, Malaysia, Türkiye, the USA and Germany.

KENYA: IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS, 2020-2024

USD '000

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wooden furniture & seats	65,711	77,200	76,593	80,132	81,596
Sawntimber	56,398	67,072	52,574	41,338	44,353
Fibreboard	20,186	18,026	18,456	27,742	32,667
Plywood	42,235	45,683	32,999	15,345	18,277
Chipboard/Particleboard	6,299	6,622	7,216	7,617	13,254
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	5,347	3,472	3,802	3,603	4,628
Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	5,019	6,171	8,205	9,382	9,878
Packing cases	259	993	1,221	546	1,003
Logs	1,822	942	519	591	763
Other products	6,839	9,411	11,338	11,523	2,141
TOTAL	205,515	229,177	204,296	188,822	208,560

Source: ITC Stats

KENYA: TOP 10 SUPPLIERS OF FURNITURE, 2020-2024

USD '000

Rank	Countries	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	World	38,194	42,219	46,682	46,773	44,833
1	China	21,331	23,051	26,046	25,981	24,850
2	Malaysia	3,975	3,169	3,765	3,076	2,317
3	Türkiye	1,859	2,258	4,744	4,154	2,254
4	United States of America	429	643	702	951	1,756
5	Germany	1,495	1,442	572	770	1,590
6	South Africa	902	1,007	780	724	1,521
7	Korea, Republic of	245	177	707	525	1,494
8	Italy	2,317	2,548	2,302	1,812	1,226
9	United Arab Emirates	421	608	1,098	818	998
10	United Kingdom	708	742	874	728	936
	Others	4,512	6,575	5,089	7,234	5,885

Malaysia ranked 2nd from 126 countries
Source: ITC Stats



MALAYSIA'S EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO KENYA

In 2024, total export showed a mixed trend from RM23.44 million in 2020 to RM20.71 million in 2022 but declined to RM12.92 million in 2024. The major products exported were wooden furniture and fibreboard, followed by plywood and mouldings. Exports of wooden furniture decreased by 32% which totalled at RM12.6 million, followed by fibreboard (RM0.14 million) and plywood (RM0.13 million).

MALAYSIA: EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO KENYA, 2020-2024

Value: RM

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Jan-June)
Wooden Furniture	19,534,548	12,928,000	19,358,546	18,515,494	12,641,225	5,534,254
Fibreboard	2,887,571	2,283,288	754,111	339,657	139,520	0
Plywood	125,664	121,102	97,944	134,389	125,152	116,564
Mouldings	0	0	0	0	14,493	0
BJC	783,311	387,797	494,676	164,050	0	0
Chipboard/Particleboard	64,423	0	0	284,161	0	0
Other Products	45,984	0	0	0	3,600	352
TOTAL	23,441,501	15,720,187	20,705,277	19,437,751	12,923,990	5,651,170

Source: MTIB & DOSM

MALAYSIA'S IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO KENYA

Import of timber and timber products from Kenya relatively remained small of which in 2024, Malaysia only imported other articles of wood and wood marquetry worth RM2,700. While Malaysia is a major exporter of its own timber products, it also seeks to secure raw materials for its industry, including from countries like Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and potentially Kenya. In 2023, Malaysia only imported wooden furniture from Kenya worth RM505, indicating a very niche or developing trade relationship.

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

Value: RM

Products	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Jan-June)
Sawntimber	12,966	0	0	0	0	0
Wooden Furniture	0	0	0	505	0	0
Other Products	0	0	0	0	2,700	0
TOTAL	12,966	0	0	505	2,700	0

Source: MTIB & DOSM





KENYA IMPORT TARIFF

Kenya has started imposing import duties as part of a regional agreement with the East African Community (EAC) member states. Changes to the Common External Tariff (CET), which came into effect on 1 July 2024, have introduced duties on certain imported items not previously subject to taxation, as well as altered previous duty rates for certain imported products. Kenya's customs tariff is a combination of various duties and levies, including the East African Community (EAC) Common External Tariff (CET) (ranging from 0% to 35% for different goods), Value Added Tax (VAT) at 16%, an Import Declaration Fee (IDF) of 2%, and a Railway Development Levy (RDL) of 1.5% or 2%. The exact rates depend on the specific product, with recent changes under the EAC agreement increasing rates on finished goods like diapers, mobile phones, and motor vehicles. Kenya import tariff for timber and timber products for main products such as veneer, panel products, mouldings and BJC are taxed at 25% whilst furniture tariff ranges from 25% to 35%, shown in the table below:-

HS Code	Products	MFN (%)	
		Malaysia	Kenya
4401	Fuel Wood	20	0
4402	Wood Charcoal	20	0
4403	Logs	0	0
4404	Hoopwood, Split polis, Piles	10 - 20	0
4405	Wood wool; Wood flour	5 - 20	0
4406	Railway sleepers	5	0
4407	Sawntimber	0	10
4408	Veneer	0	25
4409	Mouldings	0	25
4410	Chipboard/Particleboard	20	25
4411	Fibreboard	20	25
4412	Plywood	25-35	25
4413	Metalised wood or other densified wood	20	25
4414	Wooden Frame	0	35
4415	Packing cases	20	35
4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	20	35
4417	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	20	25
4418	Builders Joinery & Carpentry	5 - 20	25
4419	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	20	25
4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	0-20	25
4421	Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	0.2	25
9401	Seat and parts thereof	0-30	25
9403	Wooden Furniture	0	25-35

Source: WTO



OUTLOOK AND PROSPECTS



Kenya's economy continues to grow by 6% annually and is projected to grow steadily. The current population stands at 53 million, most living in cities as the rising middle class demands better housing and furniture. Kenya is experiencing a development boom relative to China. Demand for housing, as well as new offices, hotels, and other commercial buildings, has been growing. While concrete, steel, and glass are the dominant structural and surface materials, the use of wood as a construction material is becoming more common. Demand for prefabricated houses and building parts has also been active, offering immense opportunities for the timber industry in Kenya and other interested countries to invest in the country and the African region generally.

Despite the positive outlook, there are several headwinds faced by Kenya's timber and furniture industries that hinder their growth and competitiveness. These issues are deeply interconnected, with problems in the timber supply chain directly impacting the downstream furniture manufacturing sector. One of the most challenging headwinds is inadequate and unreliable supply of raw materials. Kenya has a substantial and growing deficit between its domestic timber supply and national demand. This is due to historical over-exploitation and a lack of large-scale commercial plantations to replace over harvested trees. According to the 2024 Forest Status Report, Kenya faces an acute shortage of wood, amounting to 16.5 million tonnes, with the current supply and demand projections showing that the country will face acute shortages of wood soon as the deficit has exceeded 50% of the national supply.

There is also a reported increase in the importation of timber from Angola's Cabinda area due to the construction boom in its major cities. The deficits indicate that Kenya has to rely on imports, especially hardwood for furniture making and softwood for construction activities or use of substitutes such as metals and plastics in various construction activities. Furthermore, the government has reportedly, at various times, imposed logging moratoria in public forests to address deforestation and promote conservation. The timber sector has been subject to inconsistent policy decisions, such as

sudden logging bans. While well-intentioned, these bans have severely disrupted the raw material supply for sawmills and furniture makers, leading to increased costs and the closure of many businesses. Moreover, it is also difficult for businesses to plan and make long-term investments.

In terms with market access, the Kenyan market is flooded with mass-produced, often cheaper, furniture from countries like China, Turkey, and Italy. These imports can undercut local prices, making it difficult for Kenyan manufacturers to compete on cost alone. Most of Kenyan furniture manufacturers operate in the informal sector that lacks access to finance, modern technology, and formal market channels. They also struggle to meet quality and safety standards. There is a significant shortage of skilled carpenters, designers, and artisans. The lack of proper training and technical education means that local companies struggle to produce furniture that meets modern standards of quality and aesthetics. The industry has a low rate of innovation and investment in research and development, that prevents local manufacturers from developing new products, improving production processes, and staying abreast of global design trends. The unstable supply of domestic timber, coupled with high import duties on certain timber products, drives up the cost of raw materials. Poor road infrastructure and high transportation costs make it expensive to move timber from forests to processing centres and finished furniture to the open market. This reduces profitability and raises prices for the end consumer.

Amidst the dim outlook, Kenya's furniture and timber sectors are projected for expansion through 2026, driven by strong household spending and population growth. The Central Bank of Kenya forecasts growth of about 5.4% for 2026, building on similar projections of 5.3% from the National Treasury, driven by improved agricultural productivity, a stable macroeconomic environment, and government initiatives like the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). This follows positive growth in 2025, and resilience shown in prior years despite global shocks, with key factors including a strengthening Kenyan Shilling and declining inflation. However, this growth is challenged by a significant domestic timber deficit, where demand outstrips supply, leading to increased wood imports and potential supply chain issues. To support this expansion, a government-led tree-planting initiative aims to increase national tree cover, while continued investment in sustainable forestry and sawmill technology is crucial to meet the growing demand and ensure the long-term viability of the industry.

The potential for Malaysian timber exports to Kenya is a compelling opportunity, particularly given the dynamics of both countries' timber industries. Malaysia, with its well-established and diversified timber sector, can complement Kenya in addressing its timber deficit and meet the growing demand for wood products. Kenya has a significant domestic timber supply shortfall, as its local production from both natural forests and plantations cannot keep up with demand. This deficit is a major driver of the country's reliance on timber imports. Thus, it will provide leverage and opportunities for Malaysian timber and furniture to capture



the potential of this emerging market in East Africa. Kenyan buyers are increasingly seeking higher-quality timber for various applications, from construction and joinery to high-end furniture. Malaysian timber players can take the opportunity to export a diverse range of tropical hardwood and plantation timber species. This variety allows Malaysian exporters to cater to different segments of the Kenyan market, from construction-grade timber to fine woods for furniture and joinery. Malaysian timber, particularly tropical hardwoods like Meranti, Keruing, and Merbau, is well-regarded globally for its durability, aesthetics, and versatility.



Modern minimalist style in Kenya furniture

The Kenyan government is taking steps to formalise and regulate the timber trade, including imports, to ensure timber traceability and sustainability efforts. This creates a structured environment for established exporters like Malaysia. While Malaysia exports primary timber products like sawnwood and logs, there is a strong government push toward exporting more value-added products like furniture, mouldings, and builders' joinery. This aligns well with Kenya's furniture and construction sectors. According to statista.com, the revenue in the Kenyan furniture market is projected to reach USD568.67 million in 2025. It is expected that the market will experience an annual growth rate of -0.56% (CAGR 2025-2030). The largest segment in the market is the living room furniture segment, which is estimated to have a market volume of USD187.16 million in 2025. Malaysia's timber industry also places a growing emphasis on sustainability and forest certification schemes

such as Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), FSC and MTCS-PEFC. As Kenya and other African nations become more environmentally conscious, certified timber from Malaysia could be a significant selling point. In terms of logistics, Malaysia and Kenya requires efficient and cost-effective shipping routes. Kenya is part of the East African Community (EAC), which has a Common External Tariff (CET) structure. Optimising logistics and managing freight costs are crucial to make Malaysian timber competitive in the Kenyan market.

Malaysian timber players should take advantage of existing innovations and exploring new markets within Kenya itself. It is necessary to enhance cooperation in the construction industry, fulfilling market requirements in supplying legal timber, venture into e-commerce and adapting to Kenya's market environment to further increase its market share in Kenya and global timber trade. Malaysian exporters would need to actively engage with Kenyan importers, distributors, and furniture manufacturers. Participating in trade shows and B2B missions can help build relationships and showcase the quality and variety of Malaysian timber products. Perhaps finding reliable/strategic partners from Kenya through the MATRADE office in Nairobi, can also help to boost our timber and timber products export to tat potential market.

The potential for Malaysian timber exports to Kenya is substantial. Kenya's significant and growing timber deficit, coupled with the rising demand from its dynamic construction and furniture industries, has created a strong market pull. Malaysia, as a leading and reliable global supplier of a wide range of timber and value-added wood products, is perfectly positioned to meet this demand. To fully realise this potential, Malaysian exporters should focus on a strategic approach that includes competitive pricing, efficient logistics, and targeted marketing that highlights the quality and sustainability of their products.



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TRUMP CUTS TARIFF ON INDONESIAN GOODS TO 19 PERCENT AFTER TALKS

US President Donald Trump announced on 16 July 2025 that all Indonesian goods imported into the United States will now be subject to a 19 percent tariff, following his direct talks with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.

The new tariff marks a reduction from the initial 32 percent rate Trump had announced in April, suggesting that Indonesia's efforts to renegotiate the terms were at least partially successful.

Prior to this latest announcement, Trump had insisted on maintaining the 32 percent tariff, even as both countries engaged in intensive negotiations. In a July 7 letter to President Prabowo from the White House, Trump reaffirmed his position.

However, following a meeting between Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto and US officials — the Secretary of Commerce and the Trade Representative — on July 9, Washington agreed to delay implementation of the tariffs for three weeks to allow further discussions. In addition to the revised tariff rate, Trump also announced that US exports to Indonesia would be “tariff- and non-tariff-barrier free.”

He added that Indonesia had agreed to apply the 19 percent tariff to any trans-shipments coming from countries with higher existing tariffs. Trump further stated that Indonesia had committed to purchasing USD 15 billion worth of American energy products and USD 4.5 billion in US agricultural goods.

He also said Indonesia plans to buy 50 Boeing aircraft, most of them Boeing 777 passenger jets, although he did not specify which Indonesian buyers would be involved.

Trump stated, this landmark deal opens up Indonesia's entire market to the United States for the first time in history,”

Source: <https://en.antaranews.com>, 10 July 2025



TIMBER SECTOR TURNS POSITIVE

Thailand's timber sector returned to growth in June after five consecutive months of contraction, making it one of the month's standout performers, according to the latest Global Timber Index (GTI) report. The ITTO-supported GTI tracks the performance of the timber sector in pilot countries.

The GTI for Thailand was at 65.0% in June, back above the 50% threshold, indicating strong activity in its timber sector. Other winners included Ghana (66.1%, the sixth consecutive month in positive territory), and China (57.5%, the fourth month above the threshold).

However, the readings for the Republic of the Congo (47.6%), Gabon (45.6%), Mexico (43.7%), Brazil (38.5%), and Malaysia (23.4%) remained in contraction territory, suggesting an overall decline in the timber business in those countries.

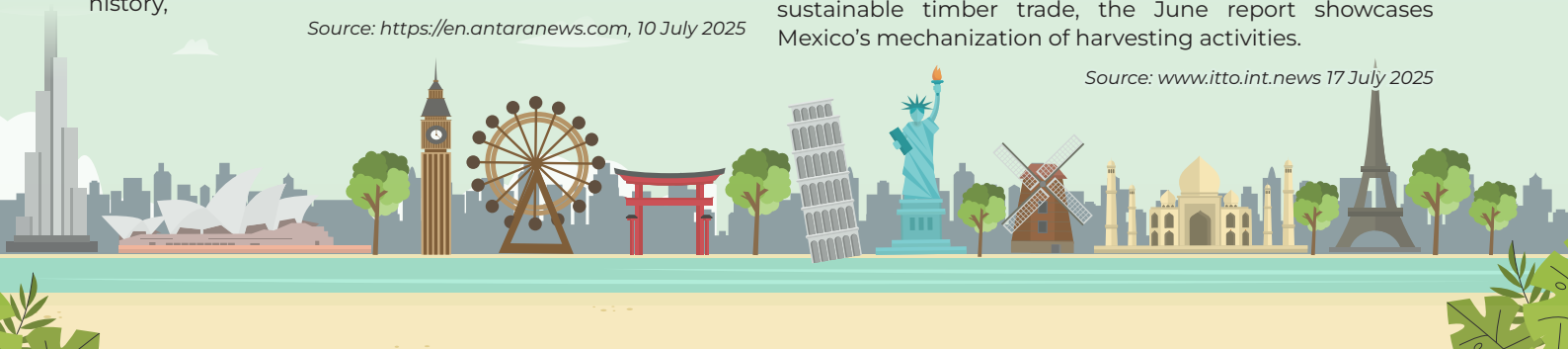
Positive signs were evident in the sub-indices of some countries. For example, harvesting volume rose in both Gabon and the Congo, while production volume in Thailand increased significantly. On the demand side, Mexico's domestic market improved, while China and Ghana continued to see growth in their export markets.

In June, the GTI-Woodbased Panel Index, a specialized index for wood-based panels, stood at 57.7% and remained above the 50% threshold for the third consecutive month, suggesting improvement in the subsector. However, the GTI-Producers Index, a specialized index for timber production, was at 43.4%, indicating weakness in that area.

Enterprises surveyed for the GTI in June highlighted various challenges. For instance, Chinese businesses reported intense price competition and suggested regulating practices in the industry; Ghanaian enterprises expressed concern over rising electricity costs, while their Gabonese counterparts noted that SETRAG, the railway operator, had raised the transportation price for logs. In Latin America, firms in both Brazil and Mexico highlighted issues related to international trade barriers or tariffs.

In its series of case studies on good practice for legal and sustainable timber trade, the June report showcases Mexico's mechanization of harvesting activities.

Source: www.itto.int.news 17 July 2025





WOOD EXPORTS RISE DESPITE TARIFF PRESSURE FROM US AND EU

In the face of global trade turbulence caused by sudden tariff changes in the US and shifts in global supply chains, Viet Nam's wood and wood product exports have managed to maintain positive momentum.

Despite mounting trade uncertainty, Viet Nam's wood and wood product exports rose by 8.9% year-on-year in the first half of 2025, reaching US\$8.21 billion, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.

The US remained Viet Nam's largest export market, accounting for 55.6% of total export turnover. Japan and China followed with market shares of 12.6% and 10.4%, respectively.

The sector maintained its position among the top five agricultural export groups with the highest trade surplus. The trade surplus for wood and wood products reached VNĐ169.5 trillion (USD 6.69 billion), up 6.7% compared to the same period in 2024.

US market adapts

According to the Phùng Quốc Mẫn, Chairman of the Members' Council of Bảo Hưng Co., Ltd. and President of the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of HCM City, said that although the US market was affected by new minimum and countervailing tax regimes, Viet Nam's export performance exceeded expectations.

Exports to the US still grew by around 6%, supported by importers building up inventories ahead of anticipated tax enforcement. While the countervailing tax was applied broadly to many exporting nations, the impact on Viet Nam's competitive edge remained significant.

To cope with higher costs, many Vietnamese exporters negotiated directly with clients to share the burden, ensuring the continuity of long-term supply contracts. Several companies also shifted toward market diversification and e-commerce. Trần Lam Sơn, Deputy General Director of Thiên Minh Co., said that e-commerce has provided a

more direct route to consumers. While traditional B2B exports suffer from increased costs due to tariffs, online D2C channels allow for more pricing flexibility.

Interior furniture sold through e-commerce is generally lower in value, and post-tariff price increases remain within acceptable margins for individual buyers—helping sustain demand.

New risks emerge

Behind the strong export data, concerns are growing over long-term sustainability. Trần Việt Tiến, Director of Gia Long Co., said the industry is facing increasingly strict trade barriers.

In the US, countervailing taxes and anti-dumping investigations threaten to reduce Viet Nam's competitiveness. Meanwhile, accusations of origin fraud add further pressure.

In the EU, the upcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), set to take effect at the end of 2025, will require exporters to demonstrate legal origin and confirm that wood products are not linked to deforestation—raising the bar for compliance.

At the same time, global supply chains are shifting. US, EU, and Japanese companies are increasingly sourcing closer to end-markets to reduce logistical risks. Without transparent operations and added value, Vietnamese wood exporters risk being excluded from these emerging supply chains.

Tiến stressed that Viet Nam's furniture industry must build a fully modern and sustainable ecosystem: this includes secure access to raw materials, advanced processing technology, creative design, recognized branding, strong logistics networks, and professional global distribution systems.

Viet Nam already has a solid foundation with more than 2 million hectares of planted forests and a skilled workforce. However, weaknesses remain in supporting sectors such as component manufacturing, flexible product design, and brand development. Most notably, Viet Nam still lacks a globally recognized furniture brand.

"Controlling a sustainable, transparent domestic supply chain brings double benefits," Tiến said. "It reduces dependence on imports and meets traceability requirements in key markets. These qualities are essential for entering high-standard global markets."

Experts agree that Viet Nam's wood sector must move beyond its role as a low-cost manufacturing hub. To remain competitive, it must evolve into a branded production centre based on innovation, quality, and transparency.

This shift requires coordinated investment across the industry—in design, technology, and compliance. At the same time, companies must take full responsibility to prevent transshipment and origin fraud. Failure to do so could damage the industry's reputation and trigger long-term sanctions, threatening access to vital export markets

Source: www.fordaq, 24 July 2025





TIMBER MARKET SHOWS SIGNS OF GROWTH

China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration, together with the National Development and Reform Commission, recently unveiled the National Reserve Forest Development Implementation Plan (2025–2028). This plan targets 14 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities—including Fujian and Guangxi—to promote afforestation of national reserve forests. It also aims to advance related industries and infrastructure, improving China's capacity to cultivate, store, and produce high-quality timber.

Import and export trends

From January to April 2025, China's cumulative wood imports reached 13.91 million cubic meters, marking an 11% decline compared to the same period in 2024. The import value also fell 14% year-on-year to USD 3.9 billion. Specifically, log imports dropped 12% to 11 million cubic meters, with average prices decreasing by 4%. Imports of sawn wood similarly declined by 12% to 8.25 million cubic meters, although prices remained stable year-over-year.

On the export side, China's furniture and parts exports fell sharply by 78% value to 155.88 billion yuan during the same period. The top three export destinations were the United States (down 9%), the United Kingdom (up 6%), and Japan (down 4%). Notably, Malaysia emerged among the top ten destinations for Chinese wooden door exports for the first time in three years, according to the Wooden Doors & Windows Committee under the China Timber & Wood Products Distribution Association.

Global Timber Index (GTI) – China update

In May 2025, the GTI-China index rose to 58.5%, an increase of 4.4 percentage points from April. This marks the third consecutive month the index stayed above the critical 50% threshold, signaling expanding business prosperity among Chinese timber enterprises.

All twelve sub-indices tracked—covering production, new orders, export orders, existing orders, purchase quantity, purchase price, imports, raw material inventory, employment, delivery time, and market expectations—

remained above 50%, indicating positive momentum across the sector. While most indicators improved compared to April, the inventory of finished products sub-index declined by 4.4 percentage points, suggesting tighter stock levels as demand remains strong during the traditional peak season.

Source: www.fordaq.com, 7 July 2025



RECORDS TIMBER EXPORT RECOVERY IN 2024

According to the statistics on foreign trade in roundwood and forest products published by the Natural Resources Institute (Luke), the value of Finnish forest industry exports reached 12 billion euros last year. This represents 17% of the total value of Finnish exports of goods. In real terms, shipments remained virtually unchanged compared to 2023, while exports of cardboard and sawn timber increased. Pulp and paper products accounted for 74% of the total value of exports, wood products 25%, and roundwood and by-products 1%.

Cardboard was the most valuable commodity group in exports in 2024, accounting for 27% of the total export value. In real terms, the export value of pulp fell by 5%, paper by 1%, while the export value of cardboard increased by 5% to EUR 3.3 billion.

The value of pulp and paper industry exports to Europe was 5.3 billion euros. Other significant partners were China and the United States, each with a volume of around 1 billion euros. China mainly purchased bleached sulphate pulp from Finland, while the United States purchased paper and cardboard.

The recovering demand for sawn timber led to higher prices in 2024. Although the volume of deliveries to international markets decreased by 2%, the value of exports increased by 7% and reached almost 2 billion euros. Sawn timber accounted for 16% of the total value of forest industry exports.

According to the Senior Statistician at the Natural Resources Institute (Luke), "Finnish sawn timber was exported not only to Europe, but also to Asia and Africa. The most important export countries were Japan and China in Asia, Egypt and Algeria in Africa".



Europe accounted for 60% and Asia for 21% of the Finnish forest industry's export revenue. Germany and China retained their positions as the most important importing countries with shares of 11% and 10%, respectively. The United States became the third largest importing country with a share of 9%.

Although Japan was only the eighth largest exporter, it was one of the largest buyers of timber products. Japan was also the only major buyer of Finnish glued laminated timber. As in previous years, exports of this product to Japan amounted to EUR 0.1 billion.

Estonia and Latvia were the largest importers of roundwood to Finland in 2024. Shipments increased by 11% compared to the previous year, reaching 5.6 million cubic metres.

Sweden was by far the largest supplier of roundwood to Finland – 1.3 million cubic metres – although the figure was down 7% compared to the previous year. The share of imports from Sweden was 72% of all deliveries, followed by Estonia with 10% and Latvia with 6%. The volume of roundwood deliveries from Estonia increased by 12%, and from Latvia – by as much as 87%.

Source: <https://www.Luke.com.my>, 30 July 2025



SLOWDOWN IN INTERNAL EU FURNITURE MARKET DAMPENS GLOBAL TRADE

A key feature of the European furniture sector is that it is characterised by an exceptionally high level of business-to-business trade concentration and integration. Unlike in the U.S., where a large share of furniture production has been relocated to China, Southeast Asia, and Mexico, 80% of current demand in Europe continues to be met by European manufacturers.

Considering just wood furniture, around 33% (USD 22.0 billion) of the total value of world trade in 2024 (USD 65.8 billion) involved EU countries where there is a robust intra-regional trade network.

Analysis of wood furniture trade data shows that the sluggish pace of EU internal trade in 2024 had a dampening effect on global trade. The total value of world trade in wood furniture increased by 5% from USD 62.7 billion in 2023 to USD 65.8 billion in 2024. However, if internal EU trade is excluded, the rise in the total value of global trade was closer to 8% last year.

The value of wood furniture imports into the EU from outside the region increased by 17% to USD 6.64 billion in 2024. Imports of wood furniture products into four other major global markets also rebounded last year: the U.S. (+7% to USD 21.3 billion), the UK (+5% to USD 4.4 billion), Australia (+15% to USD 1.7 billion), and Canada (+2% to USD 2.3 billion).

These positive trends were partly offset by a 3.2% fall in the value of the EU internal wood furniture trade to USD 15.3 billion, alongside a 2% fall in Japan's imports to USD 1.9 billion, and a 3% fall in Swiss imports to USD 1.9 billion.

China and Vietnam, and to a lesser extent Malaysia, were the principal beneficiaries of the overall recovery in global wood furniture trade in 2024. The value of China's exports increased by nearly 17% to USD 15.6 billion, while exports from Vietnam increased by nearly 18% to USD 11.2 billion. Exports from Malaysia increased by nearly 8% to USD 2.0 billion during the period.

Considering longer term trends, the clear winner in the global wood furniture trade is Vietnam, for which the value of exports increased by over 40% between 2019 and 2024. This gain was largely at the expense of China, for which the value of wood furniture exports declined by 6% during the same period.

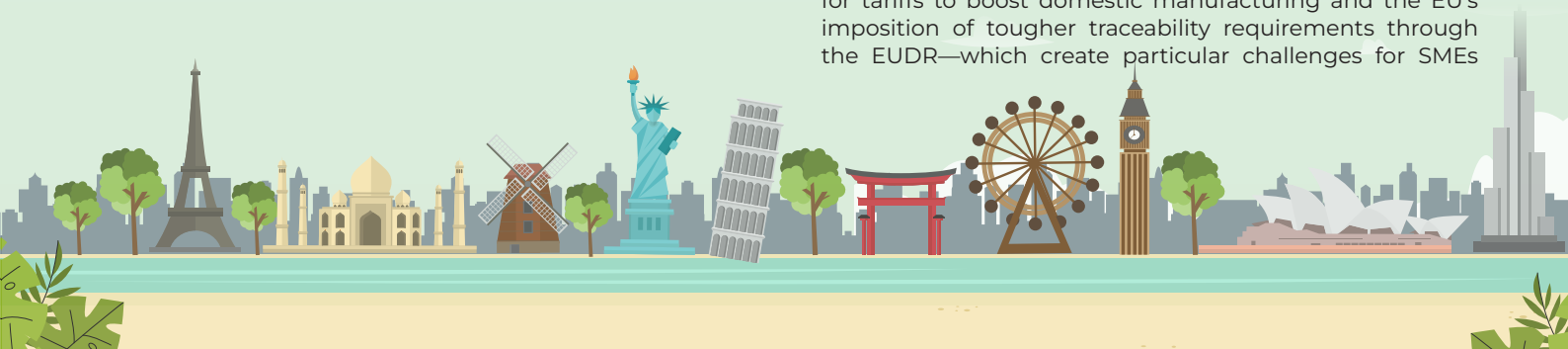
Nevertheless, last year China was still the world's leading exporter of wood furniture by a significant margin.

Overall, the data implies that the widely anticipated trend towards "reshoring" of production back to historic production centres such as the US, Europe, and Japan, has yet to gain any real momentum, at least in the wood furniture manufacturing sector.

This trend is expected to be driven by the closing gap between Chinese and US/European production costs, the reduction of labour intensity due to the progressive advent of technology, the development of regional value chains, and increasing demand for product customization and shorter time to market favouring proximity of manufacturers to clients.

It should be said though that in Europe the furniture manufacturing industry never really left. For Europe, the massive shift to lower-cost manufacturing locations that characterised the global industry between 2000 and 2020 mainly took place inside the continent – from Western to Eastern Europe – rather than involving any large-scale move further afield.

Furthermore, the rapidly changing geopolitical environment this year, particularly the US administration's enthusiasm for tariffs to boost domestic manufacturing and the EU's imposition of tougher traceability requirements through the EUDR—which create particular challenges for SMEs



and for products based on composite panels and wood from small plantations or that are imported from third countries—could yet add impetus to the reshoring trend in the wood furniture sector in the next few years.

Source: <https://www.ITTO.Fordaq> 7 July 2025



TIMBER IMPORT VOLUMES REGISTER SLIGHT GROWTH

UK timber and panel import volumes were 0.6% higher in the first quarter of 2025 than they were in 2024, reaching 2.26 million m³, according to the latest Timber Development UK figures.

The figures represent the first quarter growth on the previous year **that** the sector has seen since 2021.

The start of the year was described by Timber Development UK (TDUK) as “challenging”, with volumes falling 1% in January 2025 and 9% in February, but a 13% increase in volumes in March 2025 resulted in cumulative growth for the quarter as a whole.

Strong the first-quarter growth in volumes was realised in OSB, Plywood and engineered wood products Softwood imports also grew by nearly 2%. The reduction in MDF volumes seen in the first quarter of 2025 is being measured against a strong performance in first quarter of 2024.

Sawn and planed pine import volumes increased strongly in the early months of 2025, with pine volumes 32% higher in the first quarter of 2025 than in the first of quarter 2024 – an increase of more than 95,000m³. Most of this increase came from Sweden, but good import growth was also recorded from Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, and Estonia.

The average prices of imported pine also rose by 4% in the first of quarter 2025. Meanwhile, whitewood import volumes were 10% lower.

Total softwood import values rose by 12% year-on-year, supported by a 2% increase in volume and a 10% rise in average prices to £268/m³. Redwood values soared by 37% and mixed species by 24%, while whitewood values remained flat.

Hardwood import volumes declined by 2.8%, though key suppliers like the USA (+8%) and France (+4%) expanded their shipments. Tropical hardwoods grew nearly 3% in volume, led by Cameroon (+17%) and the DRC (+58%). In contrast, temperate hardwood volumes fell by 4%.

Plywood imports were mixed; hardwood plywood volumes edged up 1.1%, led by China and Malaysia, though values fell 1% due to lower prices. Softwood plywood values surged by 34% on the back of a 25% rise in volume and a 7% price increase, with Brazil supplying 80% of UK imports.

TDUK said overall, the first quarter of 2025 exceeded the sector’s low expectations, with stronger-than-expected volumes and a clear upward movement in pricing, especially across softwood and softwood plywood.

“While challenges remain across the construction landscape, it’s encouraging to see import growth and forecasts pointing to improvements in the housing and RMI sectors – both key markets for timber,” said TDUK Head of Technical and Trade, Nick Boulton.

“After a difficult few years, signs of recovery in new housing and the hope of continued momentum in RMI give cause for cautious optimism but we fear it may not come soon enough for some within the sector.”

Source: www.globalwood.org, 1 July 2025



WOOD PRODUCT EXPORTS DOWN

In May 2025, the Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) decreased 12% in value compared to May 2024, from USD334.6 million to USD294.9 million.

Pine sawn wood exports decreased 13% in value between May 2024 (USD64.1 million) and May 2025 (USD55.7 million). In volume, exports decreased 13% over the same period, from 271,300 cu.m to 236,100 cubic metre.

Tropical sawn wood exports increased 41% in volume, from 23,900 cubic metre in May 2024 to 33,700 cubic metre in May 2025. In value, exports increased 44% from USD23.9 million to USD33.7 million, over the same period. Pine plywood



exports decreased 13% in value in May 2025 compared to May 2024, from USD76.4 million to USD66.2 million. In volume, exports decreased 3% over the same period, from 217,100 cubic metre to 209,800 cubic metre.

As for tropical plywood, exports decreased in volume by 20% and in value by 27%, from 3,500 cubic metre and USD 2.2 million in May 2024 to 2,800 cubic metre and USD1.6 million in May 2025. Wooden furniture exports increased from USD54.6 million in May 2024 to USD55.1 million in May 2025, an increase of 1%.

Source: <https://ITTO.Fordaq/news>, 14 July 2025



HOUSING STARTS REBOUND

U.S. housing starts edged up in May following a sharp decline in April, though activity remained slightly below 2024 levels, with continued weakness in the single-family segment. According to the latest monthly report from the U.S. Census Bureau, privately-owned housing starts reached a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.32 million in May—a 4.6% increase from April downwardly revised figure, but still 0.5% lower than in May 2024.

Single-family starts were notably weaker, falling 4.6% month-over-month to an annual rate of 883,000, underscoring persistent headwinds in that segment of the market. Building permits, a leading indicator of future construction activity, rose modestly to a seasonally adjusted rate of 1.397 million, up 0.2% from April. However, permits were down 4.4% compared to the same month last year. Single-family authorizations declined 3.7% to a rate of 866,000.

Housing completions dropped sharply, highlighting the ongoing impact of labor shortages and elevated construction costs. Total completions came in at 1.314 million, down 14.7% from May and 24.1% below June 2024 levels. Single-family completions also fell, reaching 908,000, a 12.5% decrease month-over-month.

Despite modest gains in overall starts and permits, the June figures suggest that the U.S. housing market remains under pressure from affordability constraints, elevated interest rates, and lingering supply-side disruptions.

Source: <https://USCB.com> 21 July 2025



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO) AND PARTNERS CREATE NEW WIKIPEDIA PAGE ON REDUCED IMPACT LOGGING

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has led the compilation of pertinent information on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) and its role in sustainable forest management (SFM), which is now featured in an article on Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia.

The article explains in a concise manner how RIL involves the selective logging of natural forests by trained workers, according to detailed management plans, to minimize harm to the forest and risk to forestry workers, while conserving forests for the future.

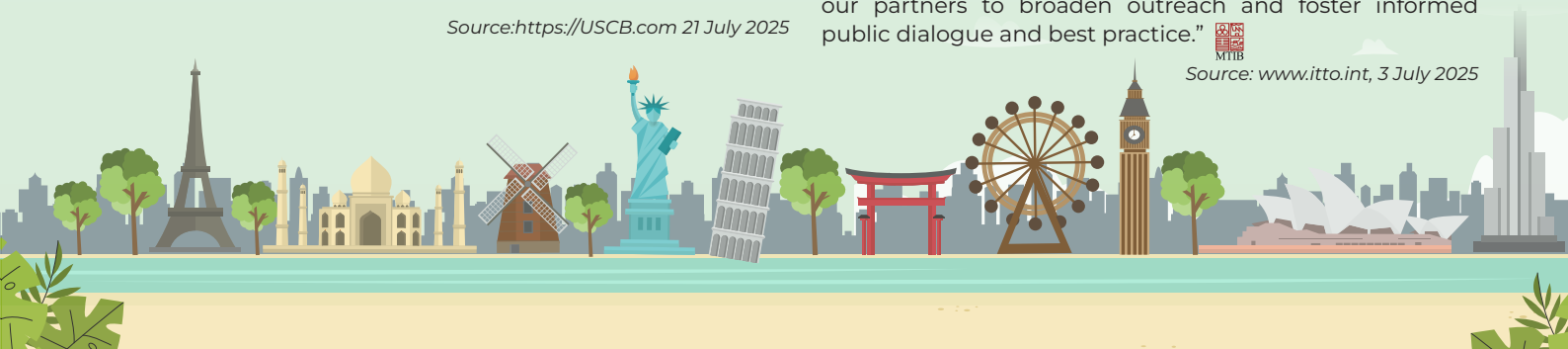
Subsections detail the emergence of RIL in response to unsustainable mechanized logging, including the set of recommended low-impact practices it comprises, its adaptation for different regions, its potential benefits for forest ecology, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, and its implications for timber operators and the timber industry.

While tropical countries, including Gabon, Guyana, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Republic of the Congo have embraced RIL, economic constraints, weak implementation within countries, and the continued influence of conventional logging norms are barriers to wider adoption, the article notes.

Organizations that have contributed to the development and promotion of RIL, including the ITTO, the Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF), are described in the last section.

ITTO Executive Director Sheam Satkuru expressed appreciation to the partners involved in this joint initiative. "Harvesting logs remains a sensitive and often misunderstood issue," she said. "That's why ITTO is committed to sharing science-based information on sustainable logging practices. We work hand in hand with our partners to broaden outreach and foster informed public dialogue and best practice."

Source: www.itto.int, 3 July 2025



FEDERAL COURT BLOCKS TRUMP'S TARIFFS

In the latest twist in the trade war unleashed by Donald Trump, an American federal court has blocked the president's sweeping tariffs.

The Court of International Trade has ruled that the emergency law invoked by the White House does not give the president unilateral authority to impose tariffs on nearly every country. It has also blocked the separate levies the US imposed on China, Mexico, and Canada.

The Trump administration has swiftly lodged an appeal saying: "It is not for unelected judges to decide how to properly address a national emergency".

In practical terms, this adds a new level of uncertainty into the mix for US importers," commented Lars Jensen, the head of container shipping advisory Vespucci Maritime, via LinkedIn. "Not only do they have to contend with the risks

associated with changing tariffs. Now it is also cast into doubt whether or not the announced tariffs will even be implementable – and this also raises the question whether tariffs paid in recent weeks can ultimately be reclaimed.

“If the tariffs are ultimately (after appeals) found to be unlawfully implemented, shippers should have a good case for getting the paid tariffs back.”

Trump backed down on his trade war with China earlier this month, slashing tariffs by 115% for a 90-day period, leading to a huge box freight rate rise on the transpacific as shippers rush to meet the deadline.

Splash247_ 20 June 2025

Tariffs, Domestic and International Uncertainties Dominate Malaysia's Shipping Sector in First Half of 2025

Malaysia's shipping industry navigated cautiously in the first half of 2025, as industry players assessed market conditions and challenges, operating in a complex environment that demanded a measured and deliberate strategy.

Ongoing talks between Petroliaam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) and Petroleum Sarawak Bhd (Petros), relatively stagnant freight rates, and geopolitical tensions affecting maritime routes dominated the sector.

However, it was encouraging to note that ports performed well, recording increased cargo volumes.

Malaysia Shipowners' Association (MASA) chairman Mohamed Safwan Othman said that while the impact of the United States' reciprocal tariff rate, set to take effect on Aug 1, was minimal on industry players, the sector continued to monitor potential medium-term consequences depending on decisions after the 90-day pause.

He added that domestic activity remained slow, with close attention paid to the ongoing negotiations between national oil company Petronas, and Petros, which had dragged on for more than two years.

"Prolonged issues have resulted in lower demand in the Oil Support Vessel market in our domestic waters. However, Petronas and TNB Fuel Sdn Bhd have awarded long-term vessel provision and contract of affreightment contracts respectively this year. Malaysian shipowners were the majority recipients of both contracts," he told Bernama when contacted.

Mohamed Safwan said other shipping segments were broadly neutral, with freight rates remaining largely stagnant over the past six months.

Geopolitics, Freight Routes and Environmental Targets

On geopolitical tensions affecting major maritime routes, Mohamed Safwan said that apart from a few global players such as MISC Bhd, most Malaysian shipping operators focused on the regional market, expanding east to China and west to India.

"In terms of cost, delays in key maritime routes such as the Suez Canal and the Strait of Hormuz have increased the dependence on ASEAN vessels operating within the region. This has led to an uptick in charter rates," he said.

He noted that Southeast Asia remained relatively stable, with routing largely unaffected. However, delays were expected in the transshipment of cargo intended for Malaysian consumption.

On the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) decarbonisation targets, Mohamed Safwan said MASA members were well aware of the regulations, but the shift towards decarbonisation required significant effort and substantial funding.

"Regarding the new targets outlined in the IMO net-zero greenhouse gas emissions Strategy 2050, MASA members are currently evaluating options that have yet to be finalised.

"The global maritime industry continues to debate current solutions at the IMO. For us, Malaysian shipowners are focusing on improving efficiency within existing regulations.

"This is also because most Malaysian vessels are ageing, and any refleetings must consider new alternatives such as alternative fuel or dual-fuel ships," he added.

On the outlook, he said that instabilities arising from geopolitical tensions had prompted industry players to capture increased demand from rerouted cargo movements.

"Key risks remain, particularly the escalating tensions between global powers closer to home, such as the rift between China and the US and Taiwan's position, which has heightened regional uncertainty.

"These issues affect freedom of movement and stability in Southeast Asia," he added.



Regional Shipping and ASEAN 2045 Vision

Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook recently expressed hope that ongoing negotiations with the United States government, ahead of the potential imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on Malaysia from Aug 1, would help mitigate the impact on the maritime industry and preserve its competitiveness.

He said the maritime sector was currently performing well, buoyed by increased trade volumes at ports operated by MMC Corporation Bhd and Westports Holdings Bhd.

Maritime analyst Nazery Khalid said the sector, which facilitates the bulk of trade among ASEAN members and between ASEAN and other regions, plays a critical role.

"The goal of boosting regional connectivity and trade in Southeast Asia to make it a global economic powerhouse cannot be achieved without adequate port infrastructure, efficient logistics, strong intra- and inter-regional connectivity, and robust shipping services," he added.

He also stressed the importance of a facilitative regulatory environment, investment incentives, digital and physical infrastructure, and alignment with international standards across the maritime supply chain.

"Sustainability, climate change, competition, intellectual property, consumer protection and taxation must be addressed to ensure cargo moves seamlessly, efficiently,

securely and sustainably, while maintaining cost competitiveness and profitability for ports, shipping lines, logistics providers and other stakeholders," he said.

Nazery cautioned that while Southeast Asia already had many success factors in place, more improvements were needed at both national and regional levels.

"For ASEAN 2045 to meet its vision of becoming a globally competitive economic region, the region's ports, some of which already rank among the world's best, must not be complacent. They must continue to improve their capacity, efficiency, productivity and service delivery.

“ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future’ is the successor to ‘ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together’, and will serve as a long-term strategic blueprint for the region over the next two decades. He said ASEAN member states must continue investing in trade, transport and digital infrastructure amid rising competition from other regions. This is needed to attract cargo, foreign investment, and global shipping lines.”

"Seaports act as vital trade gateways and facilitators of regional growth. The logistics services supporting port operations and regional trade are critical to Southeast Asia's integration into the global supply chain," Nazery concluded.

Bernama_ 28 June 2025



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KEMENTERIAN PERLADANGAN DAN KOMODITI
LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN KAYU MALAYSIA

Faster, greener shipping route launched in Vietnam

DP World, in partnership with VIMC Container Lines Joint Stock Company (VIMC Lines), has launched a new coastal and river transport service that is said to cut cargo transit times by 70%.

The so-called Mekong Express service connects inland port Cai Cui and deepwater port Cai Mep twice weekly, significantly cutting down travel time from 48 hours to 15 hours using a combined route.

The traditional route spans about 367 km, while the new coastal path is shortened to about 200 km, offering a faster, more cost-effective, and environmentally friendly solution for Vietnam's cargo shippers, DP World explained.

The Mekong Express is built to handle both dry and reefer containers, with a capacity of several hundred teu per voyage. Future expansion plans include adding stops at Saigon Premier Container Terminal (SPCT), managed by DP World, and Saigon Hiep Phuoc Port, under the Vietnam Maritime Corporation.

In addition to its operational benefits, the new service presents a more sustainable alternative to road transport, producing 60% fewer carbon emissions, DP World added.

The operation is also equipped with real-time cargo tracking and carbon monitoring technologies and both partners said they aim to make the service net-zero in carbon emissions by 2026.

The launch of the new service is expected to strengthen connectivity across southern Vietnam's two economic powerhouses, the Mekong Delta Key Economic Region and the Southern Key Economic Region, which together drive much of the country's industrial output and exports.

"DP World is committed to building a seamless, integrated supply chain ecosystem in Vietnam, an increasingly important market for trade in the Asia Pacific region and globally. With the Mekong Express, we are responding to demand for a more efficient and reliable service. This will help support economic development not just within southern Vietnam but throughout the country," said Glen Hilton, CEO and managing director of DP World Asia Pacific.

Splash 247_15 June 2025

Saudi Arabia strikes eight port terminal deals

The Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) has sealed long-term concession contracts worth over SAR2.2bn (\$586m) to develop and operate multipurpose cargo terminals at eight major ports across the Kingdom.

The 20-year agreements have been awarded to two international port operators: Saudi Global Ports (SGP), a subsidiary of Singapore's PSA, and Red Sea Gateway Terminal Company (RSGT), a Saudi-Malaysian joint venture. Each company will be responsible for developing and managing four terminals.

SGP will oversee the terminals at key ports in the Eastern Province: King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam, Jubail Commercial Port, King Fahd Industrial Port in Jubail, and Ras Al-Khair Port.

Meanwhile, RSGT, which currently operates the container terminal at Jeddah Islamic Port (pictured), will manage four ports in the Western Province: Jeddah Islamic Port, Yanbu Commercial Port, King Fahd Industrial Port in Yanbu, and Jazan Port. Upgrades at King Fahd Industrial Port in Yanbu will include the installation of state-of-the-art ship-to-shore (STS) and rubber-tyred gantry (RTG) cranes, as well as new trucks, trailers, and other equipment to improve operational efficiency and reduce turnaround times.

Transport and Logistics Minister Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, who also chairs Mawani, stated that these new public-private partnerships underscore the Authority's commitment to boosting the Kingdom's maritime transport sector, expanding economic diversification, and solidifying Saudi Arabia's role as a global logistics hub.

Splash247_ 28 June 2025



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

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m ³)	% change May 25/ June 25
	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change	m ³	% Change		
Sawn Timber	27,427	-32	4,815	9,585	368	-26	652	55	2,736	-35	35,998	-21
MDF	8,305	32	0	0	2,139	-15	360	-47	32	-40	10,836	14
Mouldings	15,545	-7	0	0	1,151	-16	1,416	-10	84	-80	18,196	-9
Plywood	1,142	-70	0	0	203	33	598	17	8,796	4	10,738	-17
Veneer	388	83	0	0	5	-84	0	0	2,022	346	388	83
Particleboard	9,103	-20	0	0	0	-100	0	0	5,594	87	14,697	2
Total	61,910	-21	4,815	9,585	3,865	-15	3,026	-5	19,264	16	92,880	-10



LOGS

The timber price in June 2025 remained the same compared to last month. Heavy hardwoods log like Chengal were priced at RM3,267/tonne, Balau at RM3,734/tonne and Merbau at RM2,850/tonne, while the price of Red Balau increased by 0.3% to RM2,147/ tonne. For medium hardwoods, the price of Keruing and Kapur remained the same compared to last month at RM1,930/tonne and RM1,865/tonne. Meanwhile the price of Kempas increased by 0.3% to RM1,535/tonne while Mengkulang price decreased by 5.7% to RM1,669/tonne. For light hardwood, the price of Dark Red Meranti was RM1,715 decreased by 2.8%, while the price of other species remained the same compared to last month. As for rubberwood, the price stayed the same at RM 204/tonne as compared to last month.



PLYWOODS

In June 2025, the Plywood price segment didn't show any changes compared to last month. The price for 4mm sheets was RM19.50/sheet, 6mm sheets was RM26.08/sheet, 9mm sheets was RM38.30/sheet and 12mm ones was RM48.95/sheet.



MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD

In June 2025, the MDF segment didn't show any change compared to last month. The price for boards of 4mm thickness was RM12.90/piece, 6mm thickness was RM23.95/piece, 9mm thickness was RM31.70/piece and 12mm thickness was RM37.80.



SAWNTIMBER

In June 2025, the price for Chengal sawntimber remained at RM5,508/m³ in the General Market Specification (GMS) category, while the price for scantlings remained at RM6,356/m³. This was followed by Balau with its GMS grade price remaining at RM3,055/m³ and scantlings at RM4,590/m³. As for medium hardwood, timber species such as Keruing were priced at RM3,107/m³ for GMS, scantlings (RM2,495/m³) and strips (RM2,448/m³). Meanwhile, for Kempas, the price was RM2,166/m³ for the GMS category, scantlings were at RM1,783/m³ and strips (RM2,454/m³). The price of rubberwood sawntimber in June 2025 remained the same with RM1,245/m³ for 1" x 1", RM1,316/m³ for 2" x 2", RM1,400/m³ for 3" x 3" and RM1,465/m³ for 4" x 4.



TRADE IN MALAYSIA-JUNE 2025

In June 2025, commerce between Sabah and Sarawak with Peninsular Malaysia totalled at 3,065 m³, with a value of RM5.25 million. Sabah remained the top contributor to the trade value of Peninsular, recording a trade value of RM3.01 million (1,464 m³) for plywood, followed by sawntimber (RM0.49million). and Veneer (RM0.69 million). Meanwhile in Sarawak, the trade value for Plywood was RM0.84 million.

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA				
RINGGIT MALAYSIA				
JUNE 2025				
SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD				
Chengal	3,267	5,508	2,790	6,356
Balau	3,734	3,055	1,718	4,590
Red Balau	2,147	2,754	2,119	2,419
Merbau	2,850	3,754	3,225	3,725
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,122	1,335	1,137	1,255
MEDIUM HARDWOOD				
Keruing	1,930	3,107	2,448	2,495
Kempas	1,535	2,166	1,783	2,454
Kapur	1,865	1,746	1,289	1,685
Mengkulang	1,669	1,201	1,365	1,871
Tualang	1,400	1,924	1,518	1,766
LIGHT HARDWOOD				
Dark Red Meranti	1,715	2,095	1,960	3,337
Red Meranti	1,933	1,777	2,025	2,531
Yellow Meranti	1,627	1,575	1,365	1,801
White Meranti	1,667	2,036	1,801	1,624
Mersawa	1,415	2,013	1,295	2,154
Nyatoh	1,373	1,783	1,819	1,201
Sepetir	1,193	1,819	1,660	1,295
Jelutong	1,225	2,119	1,589	1,819
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,223	1,278	1,095	1,165
MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD Hevea brasiliensis	LOGS/ton 204	SAWN TIMBER/m ³		
		1" x 1"	2" x 2"	3" x 3"
		1,245	1,316	1,400
PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm 19.50	6mm 26.08	9mm 38.30	12mm 48.95
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm 12.90	6mm 23.95	9mm 31.70	12mm 37.80

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

* Prices are only indicative

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE

	May 2025		June 2025		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol(m ³)	Val(' 000 RM)	MAY/JUNE	MAY/JUNE
Sabah						
Logs	39	15	0	0	-100	-100
Sawn Timber	439	611	277	491	-37	-20
Plywood	1,474	2,710	1,464	3,005	-1	11
Veneer	342	690	414	838	21	21
Sarawak						
Logs	26	20	0	0	-100	-100
Sawn Timber	215	58	140	201	-35	247
Plywood	985	878	771	719	-22	-18
Veneer	88	248	0	0	-100	-100

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

BITIS FOR TIMBER STRUCTURE

Prepared by: Encik Wan Zulhafiz Lokman Wan Idris

Introduction

Bitis is the Standard Malaysian Name for the timber of *Madhuca utilis*, *Palaquium ridleyi* and *Palaquium stellatum* (family Sapotaceae).

Madhuca utilis is commonly found in lowland and low-lying primary forest in Terengganu, Perak, Pahang, Selangor and Johor. Meanwhile, *Palaquium ridleyi* is found scattered in peat swamps, freshwater swamps or seasoned swamps in Perak, Selangor, Pahang and Johor and on elevations of up to 792m (2,600 feet) in Perak, Kelantan and Pahang. *Palaquium stellatum* is uncommon but it can be found in lowlands and hills of up to 305m (1,000 feet) in all states except Perlis, Penang and Terengganu.

The tree is also known as Bitis and Nyatoh (Brunei); Mahua, Nyatoh, Nyatuh Abang, Seminau dan Sulewe (Indonesia); Meze kamzaw (Myanmar), Kajoe torong (Papua New Guinea); Betis and Maloba (Philippines); and Chik-nom, Khanun-nok, Ma Sang and Ma Sarng (Thailand).

The trees of *Madhuca utilis* can grow up to 46m (150 feet) tall and achieve a girth of 1.82m (6 feet); its buttresses can reach up to 1.82m (6 feet). The bark closely fissured, shedding in small rectangular pieces. Its inner bark is yellow brown and is finely lamellate.

The trees of *P. ridleyi* can be rather big and can grow up to 39.6m (130 feet) tall with a 3.05m (10 feet) girth; its buttresses can reach up to 2.1m (7 feet). **Bole columnar** and is often fluted with the bark shallowly fissured. As for *Palaquium stellatum*, it can grow to 54.9m (180 feet) and 7.6m (25 feet) girth while its buttresses plank up to a height of 3.05m (10 feet) with a scaly and fissured bark.

Density

The timber is a Heavy Hardwood with a density of 820 – 1,200 kg/m³ air dry.

Natural Durability

The standard graveyard tests conducted at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) have shown that the average service life of *M. utilis* is 5.5 years under external exposed conditions and thus, it is classified as durable according to the Malaysian classification (Mohd Dahlan *et al.*, 1987).

Preservative Treatment

The timber is very difficult to treat with preservatives (Wong, 1982).

Texture

Colour of the sapwood is different from the heartwood, which is more towards reddish-brown or chocolate-red-brown. Its planed surface has a slight lustre with occasional stripe figures on a radial surface. The texture is moderately fine and even, with straight or shallowly interlocked grain.

Table 1 : Species of Bitis

Botanical Name	Vernacular Names	Vernacular Synonyms	Density (kg/m ³) air-dry
<i>Madhuca utilis</i>	Bitis	Belian	1120
<i>Palaquium ridleyi</i>	Bitis Paya	Bitis	910
<i>Palaquium stellatum</i>	Bitis Bukit	Belian; Bitis; Nyatoh Bukit; Putat Bukit.	870

Sources (1) Timber Trade Leaflet No.34
(2) Lim, S.C. (unpublished)

Strength Properties

This timber falls under Strength Group A (Engku, 1988b) or SG 1 (MS 544:Part 2:2001).

Table 2 : Strength Properties of Bitis (*M. utilis*)

Test Condition	Modulus of Elasticity (MPa)	Modulus of Rupture (MPa)	Compression parallel to grain (MPa)	Compression perpendicular to grain (MPa)	Shear Strength (MPa)
Green	21,900	123	73.6	12.21	11.3
Air dry	23,800	171	90.3	12.48	15.4

Wood Anatomy

The growth-rings are vague.

The vessels, medium in size and moderately few in numbers, are arranged in radial multiple of three or more and are unevenly distributed in a chain-like formation. The vessels have simple perforation and are commonly filled with tyloses.

The wood *parenchyma* are closely and regularly space bands. Rays are very fine and not visible. There are no ripple marks nor intercellular canals.

Machining Properties

It is slightly difficult to resaw as well as to cross-cut. Planing is slightly difficult but the planed surface is smooth.

Table 3 : Sawing and Woodworking Properties of Bitis (*M. utilis*)

Condition of test	Sawing		Planing		Boring		Turning	
	Re-sawing	Cross Cutting	Ease of planing	Quality of finish	Ease of boring	Quality of finish	Ease of turning	Quality of finish
Green	slightly difficult	easy	slightly difficult	smooth	slightly difficult	slightly rough, tendency to split	-	-
Air dry	difficult	slightly difficult	slightly difficult	smooth	Slightly difficult	slightly rough	difficult	rough

Sources : Lee et al., (1980)

Nailing Property

Nailing property is rated as poor.



Air Drying

The timber seasons slowly with moderate end-checking, splitting and surface-checking as the major sources of defects. 38mm thick boards take approximately 6 months to air dry.

Kiln-Drying

The kiln-drying properties of *bitis* has yet not been evaluated. However, based on the physical properties as well as the air drying properties of the timber, it is envisaged that the timber is fairly difficult to dry. A mild schedule (e.g. Schedule B) should therefore be used.

Table 4 : Kiln Schedule B

Moisture Content (%)	Temperature (Dry Bulb)		Temperature (Wet Bulb)		Relative Humidity (%) (approx.)
	°F	°C	°F	°C	
Green	105	40.5	101	38.0	85
40	105	40.5	99	37.0	80
30	110	43.5	102	39.0	75
25	115	46.0	105	40.5	70
20	130	54.5	115	46.0	60
15	140	60.0	118	47.5	50

Shrinkage

Shrinkage is high. Radial shrinkage averages 2.8% while tangential shrinkage averages 4%.

Usage

The timber is suitable for all forms of heavy construction such as bridges, marine construction, piling, posts, beams, joists, rafters, railway sleepers, flooring (heavy traffic), fender supports, poles, mallets, tool handles (impact), laboratory benches, heavy duty furniture, columns (heavy duty), door and window frames and sills as well as staircase (newels, risers, treads, bullnoses, round ends and winders), vehicle bodies (framework and floor boards), telegraphic and power transmission posts and cross arms.



Reference

MALAYSIAN TIMBER – BITIS LIM SENG CHOON (Forest Research Institute Malaysia) [https://mtc.com.my/wizards/mtc_tud/items/report\(20\).php](https://mtc.com.my/wizards/mtc_tud/items/report(20).php)

KAYU MALAYSIA
Kelestarian Teras Keunggulan

30 JUNE – 4 JULY 2025

Train-The-Trainer Course (TTT) For Kayutech Course Teachers
- Wood Quality Guarantee

8 JULY 2025

Session on Impact of Forest Plantation Development in
Malaysia on the Economy, Social and Environment

9 JULY 2025

Working Visit of the Malaysian Investment Development
Authority (MIDA) Delegation to MTIB

12 JULY 2025

Dialogue@KPK Programme with Honorable Datuk Seri Johari
Abdul Ghani, Minister of Plantations and Commodities

15 JULY 2025

MTIB's Courtesy Visit to the Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB)
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24th International Architecture, Interior Design & Building
Exhibition (ARCHIDEX 2025)

24-27 JULY 2025

Lenggang Lenggang Geopark Festival 2025 Exhibition