

China's trade in major forest products dips in first half of 2009

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Affected by the global financial crisis, China's imports and exports of major forest products during the first half of 2009 continued to drop compared to the same period 2008. Despite the overall drop, a slight upward trend was seen in the second quarter. Data from customs agencies shows the total trade value of forest products in China reached about USD26 billion in the first half of 2009, down 16% from the first half of 2008. Imports by value were USD11.1 billion, down 21% from the previous year. Exports by value were USD14.9 billion, down 12% from last year. However, exports by value during second quarter rose 15% over the first quarter.

Statistics data shows that China's trade of major forest products fell from 2008, but a rising trend was seen from the first to second quarters.

A total of 13.29 million m³ of logs were imported in China in the first half of 2009, valued at about 1.8 billion US dollars, down 19% by volume and 35 % by value from the same period of 2008. However, compared with that in the first quarter, import volume in the second quarter reached 7.69 million m³. Of the total log imports, softwood imports were 9.72 million m³, valued at USD1.036 billion, down 1% and 15% respectively from last year. Imports of hardwood were 3.572 million m³, valued at USD773 million, down 45% and 51% respectively. Compared with the first quarter, hardwood imports in the second quarter rose 7% by volume and 14% by value. Among the imports of hardwood, tropical log imports amounted to 2.71 million m³, down 35% from last year.

Russia remained the largest supplier of logs to China, A total of 7.675 million m³ of logs were imported from Russia, valued at USD885 million, accounting for 58% and 49% of the total respectively. Other suppliers of logs to China were New Zealand (1.87 million m³, accounting for 14%), PNG (0.75 million m³, 6%), Solomon Islands (0.58 million m³, 4%) and Gabon (0.51 million m³, 4%). A total of 11.38 million m³ of logs were imported from the above five countries, representing 86% of China's total logs imports. A total of 2.7 million m³ of tropical logs were imported in the first half of this year, down 35% from last year.

A total of 4.11 million m³ of sawnwood was imported during the first half of 2009, valued at USD948 million, up 20% by volume and down 1.5% by value from the same period of last year. Of the total imports of sawnwood (excluding sleepers), coniferous sawnwood imports were 2.68 million m³, broadleaved sawnwood imports were 1.42 million m³, accounting for 65% and 35% of the total respectively. The major suppliers of sawnwood to China were Russia (1.448 million m³), Canada (0.91 million m³), Thailand (0.382 million m³), the US (0.35 million m³), and New Zealand (0.178 million m³). A total of 3.268 million m³ of sawnwood were imported from these five countries, representing 80% of China's total sawnwood imports.

A total of 76,600 m³ of plywood were imported, valued at USD40.59 million, down 52% by volume and 55% by value. A total of 136,800 tons of fiberboard were imported, valued at USD54.48 million, down 17% by volume and 23% by value from the same period of last year. China imported 142,900 tons of particleboard, valued at USD42.93 million, up 18% in volume and down 8.5% from the same period of last year.

China imported about 7 million tons of pulp (including some non-wood pulp), valued at USD3.2 million, up 40% by volume and down 11% by value from the same period of last year. A total of 0.83 million tons of wood chips were imported, valued at USD106 million, up 42% by volume and 8% by value from the same period of last year.

A total of 113.51 million pieces of wooden furniture were exported in the first half of 2009, valued at USD5.0 million, down 3.9% in volume and 3.7% in value from the same period of last year. A total of 2.65 million tons of paper, paperboard and paper products were exported, valued at USD3.284 billion, down 17% in volume and 10% in value from the same period of last year. The value of other wooden products exports, including doors, windows, handicrafts, tableware and packing material amounted to USD1.391 billion, falling 11% from the same period of last year.

A total of 2.4 million m³ of plywood was exported in the first half of 2009, valued at USD1.1 billion, down 36% in volume and 36% in value from the same period of last year. A total of 554,500 tons of fiberboard was exported in the first half of 2009, valued at USD341 million, down 46% in volume and 39% in value. Exports of particleboard fell 49% in volume to 32,900 tons from January to June of 2009 valued at USD14.25 million, down 39% in value from the same period of last year.

Sawnwood exports amounted to only 288,300 m³ in the first half of 2009, valued at USD180.35 million, down 19% in volume and 11% in value from the same period of last year.

A total of 130,600 tons of resin and its products were exported in the first half of 2009, valued at USD150 million, down 40% in volume and 38% in value from the same period of last year.

Guangzhou City Imported Timber Market

Logs	Yuan per m ³
Lauan	1900-2400
Kapur	1900-2450
Merbau 6m, 60 cm diam.	4300-5200
Teak	11000-16000
Wenge	6500-7000
Sawnwood	
Teak sawn grade A	8500-9500
US Maple 2" KD	8800-11000
US Cherry 2"	13800-14200 ↓
US Walnut 2"	15800-16800
SE Asian Sawn 4m+, KD	3500-4000 ↑

Shanghai Furen Wholesale Market

Sawnwood	Yuan per m ³
Beech KD Grade AB	2500-3000
US Cherry, 25mm	9500-10000
US Red Oak, 50mm	9800-10500




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Sapele 50mm FAS (Congo)	
KD (2", FAS)	5600-5700
KD (2", grade A)	5200-5300

Shandong De Zhou Timber market

<i>Logs</i>	<i>Yuan per m³</i>
Larch 6m, 24-28cm diam.	1100
White pine 6m, 24-28cm diam.	1200
Korean pine 4m, 30cm diam.	1400
6m, 30cm diam.	1500

Hebei Shijiazhuang Wholesale Market

<i>Logs</i>	<i>Yuan per m³</i>
Korean Pine 4m, 38cm+ diam.	1700 ↓
Mongolian Scots Pine 4m, 30cm diam.	1250 ↓
6m, 30cm+ diam.	1350 ↓
<i>Sawnwood</i>	
Mongolian Scots Pine 4m, 5-6cm thick	1400 ↓
4m, 10cm thick	1400 ↓

Tian Jin City Huan Bo Hai timber Market

<i>Logs</i>	<i>Yuan per m³</i>
Okoume 80cm+	2800-3400
Sapele 80cm+	6000-6500
Wenge 80cm+	13000-14000
<i>Plywood</i>	
US Black Walnut 4x8x3 mm	6000-8000
Beech 4x8x3 mm	6000-8000
Teak 4x8x3 mm	6000-8000
Poplar (4x8x3-5 mm)	3000-4000

(ITTO's Tropical Timber Market Report)

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