

SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP



Global Timber and Wood Products Markets 2Q/2014

Global Timber Markets

- The **Global Sawlog Price Index (GSPI)** inched up again in the 2Q/14 to reach a three-year high of \$89.93/m³. However, price increases for sawlogs were not universal across the 20 regions that form the basis for the GSPI. Prices, in US dollar terms, were generally up in North America, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Oceania, while they fell in Western Europe.
- The trade of logs in **Europe** picked up in 2013, with import volumes hitting their highest levels since 2008 and log exports reaching a ten-year high.

Global Pulpwood Prices

- Both the **Softwood and Hardwood Fiber Price Indices (SFPI and HFPI)**, which track wood fiber prices worldwide, were higher in the 2Q than in the previous quarter.
- The **SFPI** increased 1.0 percent from the 1Q/14 to \$100.44/odmt. This index has trended upward the past year to reach its highest level since the 2Q/12. The biggest price increases in US dollar terms since early 2014 have occurred in the US Northwest, Western Canada, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand, while prices in Europe generally fell quarter-over-quarter.
- After having declined for three years, the **HFPI** increased by 1.8% in the 2Q to \$98.78/odmt. Prices rose the most in Brazil, Australia, France and Eastern Canada.

Global Pulp Markets

- The price discrepancy continues to widen between **NBSK** pulp and **BHKP** pulp. In Europe, NBSK prices have trended upwards for almost two years.
- The **operating rates** at the world's pulp mills have fallen this year from around 92% in 2013 to 88% during the first five months of 2014.

Global Lumber Markets

- After a steady increase in lumber production from February through April in both the **US and Canada**, production fell by about 6% in both countries in May. The biggest declines were seen in the US South and British Columbia.
- Towards the end of the 2Q and early in the 3Q, **US lumber prices** improved from earlier in the year, and in late August, reached the highest level since early 2013.
- The export market for the **Nordic** lumber industry brightened during the first half of 2014, with higher export volumes and prices than in 2013. Export volumes were almost 10% higher this year than the same period in 2013, with shipments to Egypt, the UK, France and Algeria going up the most.



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- Exportation of softwood lumber from **Germany** picked up in the 2Q after a few quarters of declining shipments. Although Germany is a net exporter of lumber, the country also imports large volumes of lumber and was the world's sixth largest importer in 2013.
- Consumption of lumber in **Japan** fell 4.5% from April to May but rose back up 1.5% in June, and there were signs during the summer months that demand for wood could come back to levels previously seen in 2013.
- Lumber importation volumes to **China** have zigzagged their way upward so far this year, starting from as low as 1.1 million m3 in February and reaching almost 1.8 million m3 in July.

Global Biomass Markets

- **Pellet exports** from North America to Europe rose once again in the 1Q/14, though at a slower pace than over the past few years.
- Pellet exporters in **British Columbia** are slowly shifting their businesses from Europe to Asia as demand increases in Japan and South Korea.
- **Wood pellet prices** fell in the major markets in Europe in the 2Q because of reduced demand after the winter season. In Germany and Austria, prices were down about 10% from the 1Q/14 to their lowest level in more than a year.

*Global timber and wood market reporting is included in the 52-page quarterly publication Wood Resource Quarterly. The report, established in 1988 and with subscribers in over 30 countries, tracks sawlog, pulpwood, lumber and pellet prices, and market developments in most key regions around the world. **To subscribe to the WRQ, please go to <http://www.woodprices.com>***

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