

Reprinted with permission from



Engineered wood products output, prices on the rise

	2016 Total	2015 Total	% Increase
Glulam (million board feet)	280.0	272.6	2.7
I-Joist (million linear feet)	730.1	687.0	6.3
LVL (million cubic feet)	71.0	66.5	6.8

Source: APA - The Engineered Wood Association

On the heels of a strong rally in February for framing lumber and structural panels, most producers of engineered wood products have instituted price increases for LVL, I-joists, and glulam beams. Most of the major suppliers of EWP have announced price increases of 5-12% over the past month. Unlike commodity wood products, EWP manufacturers typically only change price lists once or twice a year, if at all. A combination of good demand and rising prices of OSB, veneer, lumber, and resins, which are used to make EWP, led to the price increases.

“This is probably the easiest price increase we’ve instituted in all my years of doing this,” said one EWP salesman. He said the combination of rising demand and the fact that commodity lumber and panel prices spiked in February has led to little blowback from their customers. Most of the increases were announced to customers over the past month, and plan to be implemented by April 1.

With demand for EWP on the rise, production has also ticked higher. According to APA - The Engineered Wood Association, North American I-joist production totaled 730 million linear feet in 2016, which was up 6.3% from 2015. LVL output rose 6.8% in 2016 to 71 million cubic feet. North American glulam production rose 2.7% in 2016, totaling 280 million board feet. A wholesale distributor in Southern California said his customers have accepted recent price increases. “Down here the single-family builders use I-joists exclusively and I don’t see that changing,” he said. “With the price of OSB at a four-year high, the manufacturers of I-joists have to pay more for their web stock, so the cost of manufacturing has gone up.”



17 March 2017



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

He said his builders have grown accustomed to using I-joists because it is easier to drill holes for HVAC, electrical wires, and plumbing than with solid-sawn joists.

In addition, the flooring system comes with a warranty. Many builders also prefer the stable pricing of EWP.

Copyright © 2017 Random Lengths Publications, Inc. Reproduction and retransmission is not allowed except under the conditions of the Subscription Agreement.

Custom price history reports and on-demand graphs for all prices reported by Random Lengths are available at www.rlmyprint.com. 30-day free trial.

Questions should be directed to:

The Publisher, Random Lengths Publications, Inc.

PO Box 867, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0867

Phone toll-free (888) 686-9925 in U.S. and Canada, or

Phone (541) 686-9925; Fax: 541-686-9629

Email: rlmail@rlpi.com; Website: www.randomlengths.com

Richard P. Vlosky, Ph.D.

Director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center

Crosby Land & Resources Endowed Professor of Forest Sector Business Development

Room 227, School of Renewable Natural Resources

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Phone (office): (225) 578-4527; Fax: (225) 578-4251; Mobile Phone: (225) 223-1931

Web Site: www.LFPDC.lsu.edu



President, Forest Products Society; President-Elect, WoodEMA i.a.

