

U.S. SOLID WOOD PRODUCT EXPORTS INCREASE 3.3 PERCENT DURING THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 2005

U.S. solid wood product exports were valued at \$4.9 billion in the first ten months of 2005, an increase of 3.3 percent or \$157 million compared with the same period last year. Exports increased to four of the top five markets. Canada remains the largest export market, with 36 percent of the total exports in the first ten months of 2005. Exports to Canada increased 3 percent and were valued at \$1.7 billion during this period. Exports to the European Union-25 ranked second with an increase in exports of 4 percent, valued at \$902 million. Exports to Japan decreased by 12 percent to \$600 million. Exports to the combined market of China and Hong Kong increased 12 percent and were valued at \$481 million. Exports to Mexico increased 11 percent and were valued at \$423 million.

Major products that contributed to the overall increase through the first ten months of 2005 include exports of softwood lumber (up \$33 million), hardwood logs (up \$20 million), softwood chips (up \$19 million), hardwood lumber (up \$19 million), and railroad ties (up \$18 million). Top markets for the key products contributing to the increase in 2005 include: Canada and Mexico for softwood lumber; China/Hong Kong for hardwood logs; Japan for softwood chips; the European Union-25 and China for hardwood lumber; and Canada for railroad ties.

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