

U.S. Wood Exports to Mexico

Trade Dominated by Truck Shipments to Border States

As reported by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), 87 percent of U.S. wood exports to Mexico in 2004 were transported by truck, while rail and water shipments accounted for 8 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Over 85 percent of total U.S. wood exports to Mexico were to the border states of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas. Approximately 5 percent of total shipments were waterborne shipments destined for ports in either the Yucatan or Veracruz.

U.S. Wood Exports to Mexico, 2004			
STATE	TRUCK	RAIL	WATER
Baja California	\$ 262,449,767	\$ 8,717,826	\$ 89,100
Chihuahua	\$ 46,062,577	\$ 8,646,079	\$ -
Tamaulipas	\$ 39,793,565	\$ 72,804	\$ 290,618
Sonora	\$ 24,321,007	\$ 1,933,493	\$ -
Nuevo Leon	\$ 20,199,870	\$ 939,443	\$ -
Durango	\$ 16,507,543	\$ 2,034,050	\$ -
Distrito Federal	\$ 12,276,893	\$ 8,479,823	\$ -
Coahuila	\$ 5,625,654	\$ 7,334,275	\$ -
Oaxaca	\$ 3,246,215	\$ 651,115	\$ -
Veracruz	\$ 36,099	\$ 147,596	\$ 15,385,806
Yucatan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,867,193
Other	\$ 5,432,564	\$ 2,949,315	\$ 7,593
Subtotal	\$ 435,951,752	\$ 41,905,819	\$ 23,640,310

Truck and Rail Data Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
 Water Data Source: PIERS

According to BTS data, approximately 54 percent of total U.S. wood exports to Mexico were shipped to Baja California in 2004. With limited rail access beyond the border, this trade was dominated by truck shipments. Although the BTS no longer collects data separating Baja California into northern and southern regions, analysis of historical data suggests that over 95 percent of exports to Baja California are shipped to the northern region.

Chihuahua ranked as the second most important destination for U.S. wood products in 2004 and accounted for approximately 11 percent of shipments to Mexico. Wood exports into the state of Chihuahua benefit from a primary highway stretching from the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez down into the state of Durango. The railway follows alongside the highway and also reaches into the corners of the state. It should be noted that Chihuahua's infrastructure appears to benefit U.S. wood exports to Durango as well. Shipments to Durango can either pass along an easterly path through Hidalgo del Parral or westerly through Torreon.



Tamaulipas ranked as the third most important destination for U.S. wood products in 2004 and accounted for approximately 8 percent of shipments to Mexico. Similar to Chihuahua, Tamaulipas road and rail infrastructure extends beyond the northern cities of Laredo and Brownsville well into the interior of the state.

Analysis of customs district data collected by the Department of Commerce (DOC) indicated that 49 percent of U.S. wood exports to Mexico in 2004 were shipped through the San Diego, California customs district. Hardwood lumber, softwood lumber, softwood plywood and particle board accounted for 21 percent, 16 percent, 8 percent and 7 percent, respectively of these exports. Top hardwood lumber species included red oak, maple and western red alder, while major softwood lumber species included other pine, other spruce and Douglas-fir.

DOC data indicated that 32 percent of U.S. wood exports to Mexico were shipped through the Laredo, Texas customs district. Comparing DOC data to that collected by BTS suggests that the Laredo customs district was the primary shipping point for supplying the border states of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas as well as Durango, Distrito Federal and Oaxaca. Hardwood lumber, medium density fiberboard, softwood molding and softwood plywood accounted for 26 percent, 7 percent, 6 percent and 6 percent, respectively, of exports from the Laredo, Texas customs district. Top hardwood lumber species included red oak, yellow poplar and maple.

DOC data indicated that 11 percent of U.S. wood exports to Mexico were shipped through the El Paso, Texas customs district. Softwood lumber, hardwood lumber, medium density fiberboard, hardwood veneers and particleboard accounted for 27 percent, 15 percent, 9 percent, 9 percent and 7 percent, respectively of these exports. Top softwood lumber species included ponderosa pine and other pine, while major hardwood lumber species included red oak, yellow poplar and maple.

DOC data indicated that 6 percent of U.S. wood exports to Mexico were shipped through the Nogales, Arizona customs district. The “other wood products” category accounted for 45 percent of these shipments, while prefabricated buildings, softwood lumber, wood packing material and particleboard represented 25 percent, 8 percent, 6 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

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Additional graphs related to Mexico and other export markets can be found at:
http://www.fas.usda.gov/ffpd/US_Exports_Trade_Data/Key_Wood_Industry_Graphs.pdf