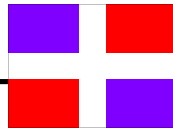
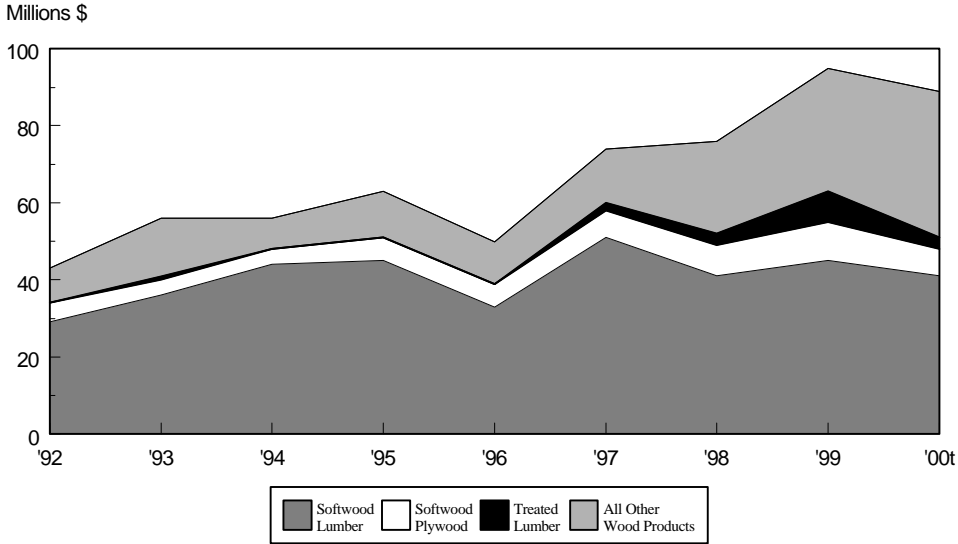


# Dominican Republic



## Total Exports in 1999: \$96 million

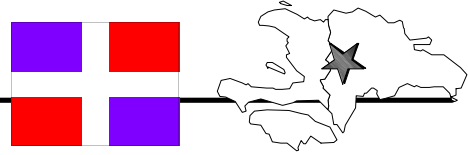


## Tariff Schedule for U.S. products:

Item	HS Code	2000 Applied Rate	Bound Rate
Logs: Temperate Softwood and Hardwood	4403	0-15%	40%
Lumber	4407	0-15%	40%
Veneer	4408	0-20%	40%
Moulding & Flooring	4409	0-25%	40%
Particleboard	4410	20%	40%
Fiberboard	4411	20%	40%
Plywood	4412	20%	40%
Builders' Joinery and Carpentry	4418	0-25%	40%

# Dominican Republic

---



## Non-Tariff Barriers:

- The inclusion of additional import taxes raises the effective tax rate as well as the cost of exporting. Additional taxes include an 8 percent tax for “industrialized goods and services,” and a surcharge tax of 1.5 percent. Tariffs for softwood lumber are based on a minimum value that does not reflect actual cost.
- Cumbersome system of licensing, discretionary customs evaluation system, and consular invoice approval present impediments to trade:
  - Lengthy delay of custom clearance procedures.
  - Requirement that consular invoice and “legalization” of documents for all imports be obtained and approved by Dominican Republic (DR) Consulates in the United States causes payment of additional fees and delays.
  - Tendency of DR customs not to accept invoice value of goods for evaluation purposes sometimes forces exporters to obtain consent of the Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce for entry of agricultural products, causing additional delays.
  - Incomplete price listing in computerized valuation system allows for discretionary evaluation by import inspectors, preventing the establishment of a transparent and standardized evaluation system.

## Trends and Recent Developments:

- The DR has agreed to conform to WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures. All log and lumber imports require a phytosanitary certificate as well as an import permit.
- Due to an increase in tourism, growth in construction of hotels, housing, commercial plazas, and offices has led to greater demand for lumber consumption and wood imports from the United States, especially Southern Pine lumber.
- Proposed changes in tariffs and import taxes: the Dominican Republic Congress is reviewing legislation to decide whether or not to change the industrialized goods and services tax from the current 8 percent to 12 percent. Also, the President has proposed a new tariff rate schedule setting the maximum tariff at 20 percent.