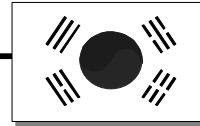
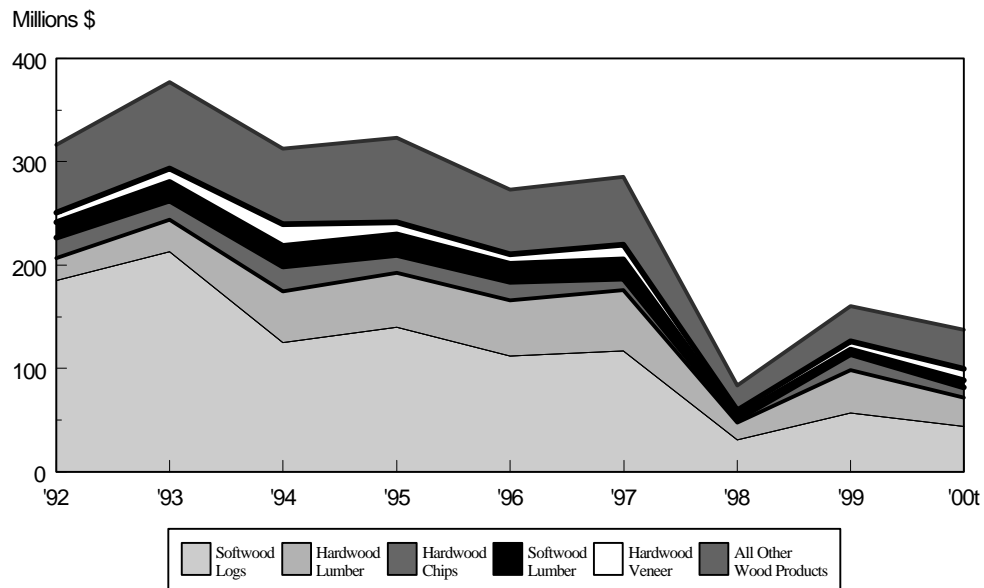


South Korea



Total Exports in 1999: \$160 million

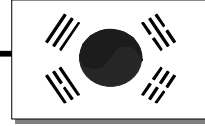


Tariff Schedule for U.S. products:

Item	HS Code	2000 Applied Rate	Bound Rate
Logs: Temperate Softwood and Hardwood	4403	1-2% (0%)*	2%
Lumber	4407	5%	10%
Veneer	4408	5% (2.5%)*	10%
Moulding & Flooring	4409	8%	13%
Particleboard	4410	8%	Unbound
Fiberboard	4411	8%	Unbound
Plywood	4412	8%	Unbound
Builders' Joinery	4418	8%	13%

* Figures in parentheses represent tariff quota rates

South Korea



Non-Tariff Barriers

- Revision of the building code is expected prior to the end of this year. Traditionally, building height and total allowable floor area has been restricted by Korean building code. The proposed revision would allow multi-family wood-frame construction of up to three stories.
- For safety reasons, height restrictions are placed on wood frame housing units under the Korean fire code. The Korea Forestry Research Institute, a government agency, requested burn test data earlier this year on major structural parts of wood frame house and on locally produced glulam. Floor, wall and roof systems sheathed with U.S. gypsum board were tested. However, Korea does not recognize gypsum board as non-combustible material, so wood frame construction is still prohibited in multi-story, multi-family application.
- On January 1, 2000, Korea invoked an adjusted tariff rate of 14 percent on plywood, veneered panel and similar laminated wood.
- Pine and larch lumber must be kiln dried and originate from a subscriber mill of one of the grading agencies under the APHIS certification program. Shipments must be accompanied by an international phytosanitary permit with an additional declaration.

Trends and Developments

- Revised building code design standards proposed by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation (MOCT) would allow for multi-family construction of up to three stories be wood frame construction. These revisions are based on the United States “Uniform Building Code” (UBC) and the American Forest and Paper Association’s “National Design Specification.” Fire code regulations will still need to be modified before any revision to the building code standards could become applicable and practical for such construction.
- Korean builders and architects are increasingly seeking technical assistance and advice from U.S. wood frame construction companies. This is a result of the Korean Government’s lifting of restrictions for new construction in golf course and greenbelt areas which has enhanced the demand for wood frame construction.