

## Market Summary of U.S. Wood Exports

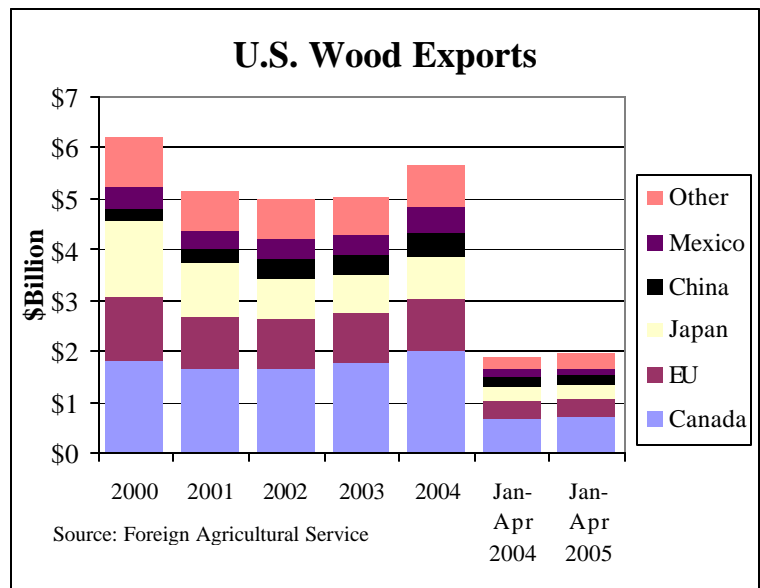
Between January and April 2005, U.S. solid wood product exports were valued at \$2.0 billion, an increase of 3.6 percent from the same period last year. Wood exports are forecast to reach \$5.9 billion in 2005, a \$200 million increase over last year's level. Exports to Canada, the European Union-25 (EU), China and Hong Kong (China) and Mexico increased, while exports to Japan decreased. These top markets account for 85 percent of the total value of exports, though U.S. wood is exported to over 180 countries.

Between January and April 2005, exports to Canada were valued at \$708 million, an increase of six percent from the same period last year. Hardwood lumber, the top wood commodity exported to Canada, decreased two percent during this time period primarily due to decreased shipments of red oak. Increased maple exports partially offset red oak losses. Hardwood log exports to Canada increased 12 percent on the strength of maple. Red oak log exports continued to increase moderately as did many other hardwood log species. Softwood log exports increased 20 percent as a result of strong demand for spruce. In 2004, U.S. wood exports to Canada totaled \$2.0 billion.

Between January and April 2005, exports to the EU increased four percent from the same period last year to \$368 million. Hardwood lumber exports increased six percent during this time period on the strength of white oak and western red alder exports, while yellow poplar and cherry exports decreased. Hardwood veneer exports decreased five percent as shipments of cherry and maple slowed. In

2004, U.S. wood exports to the EU totaled \$1.0 billion.

Between January and April 2005, exports to Japan decreased 12 percent from the same period last year to \$249 million, making Japan the only major market in decline. Softwood log exports decreased 12 percent



primarily as a result of decreased shipments of Douglas-fir and western hemlock, while exports of spruce logs increased slightly. Softwood lumber exports declined 34 percent as a result of decreased shipments of Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce, western hemlock and amabilis fir. Hardwood lumber exports increased one percent as increased exports of white oak lumber were largely offset by decreased exports of maple. In 2004, U.S. wood exports to Japan totaled \$804 million.

Between January and April 2005, exports to China increased three percent from the same period last year to \$181 million. Although western red alder lumber exports increased 74 percent, decreased exports of red oak, yellow poplar, maple and walnut

caused hardwood lumber exports to fall three percent. Hardwood log exports increased 15 percent on the strength of yellow poplar, cherry and maple exports, while walnut and red oak exports decreased. Hardwood veneer exports fell 33 percent as shipments of all species except walnut declined. In 2004, U.S. wood exports to China totaled \$513 million.

Of the top U.S. wood markets, exports to Mexico enjoyed the largest percent gain, increasing 11 percent in the first four months of 2005 to \$155 million. Year-to-date hardwood lumber exports increased 20 percent on the strength of red oak and, to a lesser extent, maple and yellow poplar. Softwood lumber exports increased 32 percent, largely due to increased exports of other pine and other spruce. In 2004, U.S. wood exports to Mexico totaled \$459 million.

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For additional graphs, please refer to:

[http://www.fas.usda.gov/ffpd/US\\_Exports\\_Trade\\_Data/Key\\_Wood\\_Industry\\_Graphs.pdf](http://www.fas.usda.gov/ffpd/US_Exports_Trade_Data/Key_Wood_Industry_Graphs.pdf)