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Burma

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

Date: 2/16/2001

Report Highlights: Burma's official wood exports should remain at around 475,000 cubic meters. The industry in Burma is faced with over logging due to continued unchecked illicit trading in logs. GAIN Report #BM1004 Bangkok

Canada

Solid Wood Products: SLA Provinces Want All Provinces Included in New Lumber Arrangement 2001

Date: 1/26/2001

Report Highlights: The four provinces governed by the Softwood Lumber Agreement are urging the Government of Canada to include the other provinces in any new softwood lumber trade agreement. The request is based on soaring production from the Atlantic Canada provinces whose production has increased 62 percent to 1.2 billion board feet over the last five years. Lumber producers in eastern Canada do not welcome the idea, saying that they are under a separate agreement that reflects similarities in harvesting between them and the United States. GAIN Report #CA1009 Ottawa

Solid Wood Products Annual 2000

Date: 12/5/2000

Report Highlights: Canada's economy continues to grow but softwood lumber production has not shown the same growth. Production for softwood lumber in 2000 is expected to increase by less than 1% based on nine months of available data from Statistics Canada. Sawmill worker strikes in British Columbia during the summer caused a decrease of Canadian production. An oversupply of sawn softwood in the North American market is also causing many mills across the country to extend downtime, reining in Canadian production levels for 2000. GAIN Report #CA0187 Ottawa

China, People's Republic of

Solid Wood Products - Furniture Industry Report 2001

Date: 1/5/2001

Report Highlights: Housing reform and rising incomes are driving rapid growth in demand for furniture in China. The domestic industry is also growing, resulting in greater demand for imported wood products. While China is the world's largest furniture exporter, growing demand will create more opportunities for imports. GAIN Report #CH1001 Beijing

Denmark

Solid Wood Products Annual 2000

Date: 12/15/2000

Report Highlights: High U.S. softwood prices in recent years and aggressive Scandinavian and East European suppliers reduced U.S. market share to less than 6 percent. GAIN Report #DA0040 The Hague

France

Solid Wood Products Annual 2000

Date: 12/27/2000

Report Highlights: The United States takes the lion's share of France's imports of temperate hardwood logs and lumber and is increasing its exports of softwood lumber to France. Despite a strong dollar and depressed domestic prices due to the oversupply caused by the hurricanes of December 1999, exports of U.S. wood products, especially hardwood logs and lumber, have increased in CY 1999 and 2000 while most other U.S. agricultural exports to France declined. In CY 2000, wood consumption increased, driven by hikes in housing starts and building renovations. French forecasts are buoyant for CY 2001. GAIN Report #FR0111 Paris

Germany

Solid Wood Products Annual 2000

Date: 12/15/2000

Report Highlights: U.S. forest products exports to Germany are closely related to the well-being of the German furniture market. Despite the high value of the US\$ versus the Euro, U.S. solid wood shipments in 2000 are forecast to grow to US\$235 million, compared with US\$ 219 million in 1999. This represents 7.8 percent of total German forest products imports. Major U.S. successes in 2000 were hardwood logs and lumber. GAIN Report #GM0045 Berlin

Italy

Solid Wood Products Annual 2000

Date: 12/11/2000

Report Highlights: Total Italian imports of forest products, including wooden furniture, were valued at \$ 4.8 billion in 1999. Italy continues to be the most important European market for American hardwood lumber, with total U.S. forest product imports amounting to \$205 million. An improved construction market in Italy and the weak euro, which has helped exports, have created a positive trend for the Italian wood sector. The strong dollar has hurt U.S. exports of softwoods, but the demand for U.S. hardwoods has remained fairly stable. GAIN Report #IT0043 Rome

Japan

Trade Policy Monitoring: Japan Considering Safeguard Measures on Vegetable, Seafood, and Wood Products 2001

Date: 2/5/2001

Report Highlights: In response to rising imports and pressure from the Japanese industry and the Japanese Diet, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) is moving toward possible safeguard actions, which could eventually result in restrictions on imports of a variety of vegetable, seafood, and forest products. Products of interest to U.S. exporters include onion, tomatoes, and sawn lumber. Trade contacts report that it will be 6 months to a year before final action, if any, is taken. GAIN Report #JA1013 Tokyo

Mexico

Agricultural Situation: Phytosanitary Requirements for Imported Forest Products 2001

Date: 2/8/2001

Report Highlights: SEMARNAT published the phyto-sanitary requirements that imported forest products and forest by-products must comply with. Industrial sources are not foreseeing a negative impact on the U.S. forest imports GAIN Report #MX1016 Mexico City

Poland

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

Date: 2/01/2001

Report Highlights: Polish exports of softwood lumber increased by almost 50 percent in 2000 with Germany being the largest market. Polish furniture exports increased to \$1.6 billion during the first three quarters of 2000. Poland imports lumber and logs as well as construction materials. Demand for housing and construction materials have increased. U.S. exports to Poland of solid wood products (mainly sawn wood, veneer sheets, fiberboard, joinery and carpentry) decreased slightly during 2000. GAIN Report #PL1004 Warsaw

Spain

Solid Wood Products Annual 2000

Date: 12/15/2000

Report Highlights: Buoyant housing and furniture manufacturing are sustaining the consumption of forest products at high levels. Forest product imports during the first half of 2000 have increased from all sources, including the United States. Hardwood lumber and veneer imports from the U.S. have grown rapidly. For the second half of 2000, this tendency towards United States' forest product imports is expected to stop since the current weaknesses of the Euro is causing importers not to replenish stocks or to look for alternative sources. GAIN Report #SP0052 Madrid

United Kingdom

Solid Wood Products Annual 2000

Date: 12/15/2000

Report Highlights: U.S. hardwood sawn lumber imports into the UK for 2000 are expected to be up around 9 percent to 115,000 m³. Improving activity in both the UK construction industry and furniture sector has contributed to the upward trend. However U.S. hardwood sales have been partially constrained by the volatile dollar-sterling exchange rate this year. GAIN Report #UK0049 London

Vietnam

Solid Wood Products: Market for Forest Products (Hardwoods) 2001

Date: 2/5/2001

Report Highlights: Vietnam's domestic supply of wood is declining and imports of solid wood are growing rapidly. U.S. hardwood exporters should carefully consider this market. GAIN Report #VM1002 Hanoi