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People's Republic of China

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

DATE: 7/18/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Imports of forest products continue to grow, particularly logs and lumber. Housing reforms and China's impending entry into the WTO ensure that demand will remain strong. Prospects for processed product exports are also excellent, although competition from other exporting countries and from China's own wood processing industry are expected to remain strong. GAIN Report #CH1032

Finland

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

DATE:07/13/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: The forest industry accounts for about one third of all of Finland's exports (including non-agricultural exports). The main market for Finnish forestry products is the European Union, which, in 2000, accepted 65 percent of such exports. In 2000, Finnish exports to the European market decreased by almost 3 percent, while exports to markets outside Europe increased by 6 percent. Finnish exporters perceive the strong increase in forest product exports from the Baltics and Russia to the European Union as a threat in their traditional markets. GAIN Report #FI1002

Indonesia

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

DATE: 7/9/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Forest management continues to be the mantra of the Government of Indonesia. However, illegal logging and exports remain substantial. In 2001, total annual timber removals are estimated to be 56.5 million cubic meters – 32.5 million cubic meters above the annual allowable cut. Hardwood plywood production is forecast to drop down again to 7.5 million cubic meters in 2002. Tropical hardwood lumber production is up modestly to 6.5 million cubic meters. Log production is expected to hold steady at 26.5 million cubic meters in 2001 and 2002. New regional autonomy policies add to the existing mix of forestry policies and have tended to cause confusion as well as be counter-productive to federal forestry policies. GAIN Report #ID1017

Japan

Japan's Wood Furniture Imports - China Leads in 2000

DATE: 7/27/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Japanese wood furniture imports in 2000 grew 19.8 percent from previous the year, the first increase following three years of stagnation. China has emerged as the leading furniture supplier, accounting for 20 percent of total Japanese imports. Imported U.S. wood furniture, valued at about \$60 million, ranked 8th, up 4 percent from 1999. GAIN Report #JA1071

Japan

Housing Starts are Lower and the Outlook for 2001 is Turning Bearish

DATE: 7/23/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: As Japan's economy remains stagnant, housing starts in May dropped slightly from the same month last year, totaling 100,250 units. Due to the trend of having fewer children, a sense of insecurity about employment and income, a drastic depreciation of property values, and an oversupply of unsold homes, total starts this year are expected to decline 5 percent from last year. GAIN Report #JA1065

Japan

Sick House Syndrome in Japan-A Key Issue 2001

DATE: 7/23/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: The Sick House Syndrome, a focus of Japanese government policy makers, is a sickness experienced by home buyers in newly-built houses constructed with products using excessive levels of chemicals. Government regulatory action appears imminent, thus forcing the industry to deal with the issue. GAIN Report #JA1054

Japan

Japanese Plywood Industry and Market in 2000

DATE: 7/19/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Due to Japan's stable imports of tropical hardwood plywood imports from Indonesia and Malaysia and diversified needs for structural panels, the industry continues to shift plywood production from tropical hardwoods to softwoods. GAIN Report #JA1069

Japan

Japanese Market Demand for KD Lumber Rapidly Growing—An Opportunity for U.S. Exporters

DATE: 7/19/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: A new market opportunity exists in Japan for exporting kiln dried (KD) lumber. Japan's wood industry is trying to supply KD lumber to the growing quality-driven market, but historically the industry has provided green lumber to the post and beam housing sector. The industry's ability to add kiln drying facilities and supply more dried lumber, in the midst of Japan's stagnant economy, remains limited. GAIN Report #JA1068

Japan

Particleboard & MDF Products in Japan - Penetrating Construction and Furniture Markets

DATE: 7/18/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: The Japanese market for particleboard and medium density fiberboard (MDF) grew 5.3 percent and 3.5 percent respectively, in terms of volume in 2000 from the previous year. These products penetrated construction and furniture/interiors markets at the expense of traditional materials such as lumber and plywood. Sales of hardboard and insulation board, on the other hand, remain weak. GAIN Report #JA1067

Japan

Where is Japan's Secondary (Used) Housing Market?

DATE: 7/18/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Virtually no secondary (used) housing market exists in Japan. The

Government of Japan is finally turning its attention to this unexploited and potentially huge building materials market sector with a new policy focus on infrastructure identification and improvement. GAIN Report #JA1066

Japan

Japanese Lumber Production Declines - 2000 Update

DATE: 7/18/2000

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Lumber demands from the housing market were relatively stable in 2000, but growth in the imports of lumber and other wood products contrasted with a decline in domestic lumber production. The total volume of logs used at sawmills declined 3.4 percent to 26.5 million cubic meters in 2000. GAIN Report #JA1064

Japan

Glue-laminated Market Keeps on Growing for Housing Constructions 2001

DATE: 7/18/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: As home buyers look for a long-life warranty in their homes under the new Japan Housing Quality Assurance Act, and the share of "prefabricated, precut and packaged" housing construction grows, the Japanese market for structural glue-laminated beams keeps on growing. In addition to increased imports of U.S. glue-laminated beams, domestic manufacturers are increasingly using northern European softwoods to manufacture beams locally. GAIN Report #JA1062

Japan

Canada's Log Exports to the United States and Japan - Update in 2000

DATE: 7/18/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Canada's log exports to the United States and Japan totaled almost 2.5 million cubic meters in 2000, a 32.5 percent increase from 1999. Of total Canadian log exports, 66 percent of the volume went to the United States and the remainder to Japan. GAIN Report #JA1063

Japan

Japan's Policy Priorities for Housing Sector

DATE: 7/16/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: A top Japanese housing official reports that housing starts for fiscal year 2001 (April 2001-March 2002) will be about the same level as the previous year, or about 1.2-1.25 million units. This is close to the 1.28 million units per annum anticipated in the current 5-year plan for housing construction. The housing official also stated that new policy measures will focus on improving the stock of existing homes and promote the secondary housing market, rather than increasing new construction. GAIN Report #JA1059

Japan

Japan-An Industry Forecast for Wood Imports in 2001

DATE: 7/16/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: According to the Japanese Lumber Importers Association, an industry group of wood importers, Japan's softwood lumber imports from Europe are forecast to grow 7 percent from 2000 at the expense of wood imports from North America, which are expected to decline 6 percent in 2001. GAIN Report #JA1061

Japan

Japan's April Housing Starts - an Update

DATE: 7/16/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Japan's housing starts in April remain down but the prefabricated housing industry shows a positive 2.9 percent growth. Wood-framed prefabricated housing and 2x4 wood-framed housing stand out as the only segments that continue to grow. GAIN Report #JA1060

Japan

Japan's "Safeguard" Action Against Wood Products - Update

DATE: 7/16/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: A recent editorial argues that while the safeguard action remains an open question, there are forces that make implementation unlikely. Specifically, wood products are unique in that a safeguard would not benefit all segments of the wood industry, and would hurt some segments. In addition, unlike the case with vegetables or tatami, trade in wood products are with Japan's largest and most important trading partners. The editorial concludes that the industry should not be distracted by safeguards relief and should engage in the necessary structural reform. GAIN Report #JA1058

Republic of Korea

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

DATE: 7/11/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Despite the strong dollar, the growth rate of Korean exports for the first quarter 2001 was negative. GDP growth in 2001 is forecast between 3.5 and 4 percent, sharply below the 8.8 percent level of 2000. Korean self-sufficiency of wood products is expected to remain unchanged from the previous year at 5 percent. Limited local resources of wood products make Korea heavily reliant on imported wood products. The U.S. industry continues to face strong competition in this price-centered-market. The economic slump has prolonged the recession in the housing construction, furniture and interior sectors. In the interiors sector this has led to substitution of veneer laminated panel products for lumber. In the housing sector, two-by-four wood construction is encouraging as deregulation initiatives and building code revisions will be favorable for single-family and low rise multi-family units. GAIN Report #KS1041

Philippines

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

DATE: 7/17/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: The slow down of the Philippine economy in 2001 will dampen demand for wood and wood products during the year. Coupled with a depreciation of the Peso, imports of logs, lumber, veneer and plywood will decline from 2000 levels. A slight recovery is expected in 2002 as the economy improves. GAIN Report #RP1030

Malaysia

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

DATE: 8/3/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: Wood products had a banner year in 2000. Exports of U.S. hardwood logs and lumber to Malaysia reached record levels. Malaysian imports of U.S.

temperate hardwood lumber rose 60 percent in 2000 with U.S. exports accounting for one-half of Malaysia's temperate hardwood market. The Malaysian timber industry also welcomed 2000, as production of all the four major timber product categories recorded positive growth. Export earnings from the timber sector rose 3.5 percent to US\$4.7 billion in 2000. The impressive performance of the Malaysian furniture and interior sectors benefitted U.S. temperate wood product suppliers. GAIN Report #MY1038

Sweden

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

DATE: 7/13/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: The European Union continues to be the most important market for Sweden's forestry products, receiving about 75 percent of total exports. However, increasing competition from the Baltics and Russia is a threat to Swedish exporters. The strong growth of Swedish exports markets outside the Europe Union continued during 2000 as Swedish exports to Japan increased by 13 percent to 650,000 cubic meters in 2000. Sweden's exports to the United States grew fivefold in 2000, reaching 175,000 cubic meters. GAIN Report #SW1011

Taiwan

Solid Wood Products Annual 2001

DATE: 8/10/2001

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: The general demand for construction and interior design services, as well as consumer products, has not escaped the downturn in the Taiwanese and global economies which began in mid-2000. Slight declines in imports during the past year are expected to be amplified in 2001, with a turnaround widely anticipated in 2002. Several wood segments continue to see positive results. Structural wood continues to extend its small, but growing share of the construction market -- particularly in the recreational and public sectors. Plywood also posted strong gains due to depressed exporter prices and a growth in public works and home do-it-yourself (DIY) interior projects. GAIN Report #TW1030