

Reporting Timber Production, Trade, Consumption, and Price Statistics and Trends

Research is being conducted to provide consistent broad data and trend information on timber production, trade, consumption, and prices for the United States. The data and trend information is used by government and industry analysts to aid in forestry and forest products management decision making.

Data are provided from numerous sources and publications, and differences among sources are reconciled and gaps filled to provide complete and consistent data series. This research also provides information not found elsewhere, such as estimates of total roundwood harvest by type of end product. (Other available sources focus on a single product or industry sector, are not national in scope, or do not provide the comprehensive statistics needed to evaluate national and regional impacts for forest products production.) Detailed data on trends are provided for each type of forest product, and general data are provided on economic trends that influence forest products production, consumption, and trade. Information is provided to synthesize trends for many sectors and to indicate the impact of market changes on forest resources.

Background

The researcher is the U.S. national correspondent responsible for providing forest sector data for the Joint

Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ), which is used to collect data from one correspondent in each country.

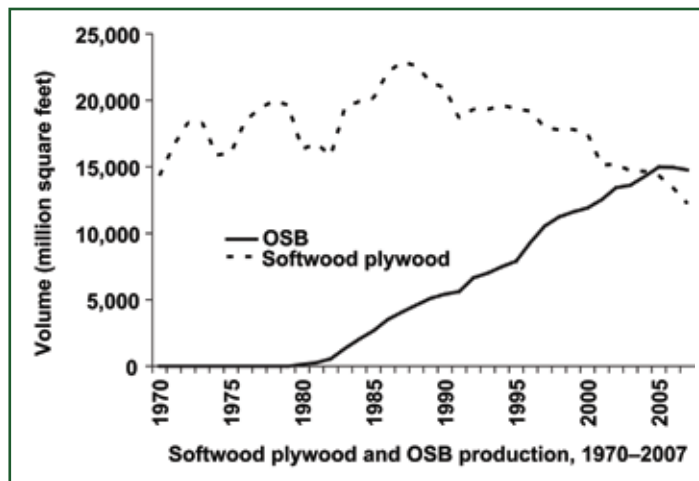
The compiled data are then distributed to several international organizations, including United Nations/Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Eurostat, and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

The data are used in two issues of the US/ECE timber bulletin—Forest Products Statistics and the Forest

Products Annual Market Review—and in the FAO Yearbook of Forest Products. The researcher also prepares the U.S. Forest Products Annual Market Review for publication in the international Forest Products Annual Market Review produced by the ECE. By making national forest products statistics available worldwide, this up-to-date resource information allows for national and international response to emerging issues concerning the global timber resource.

Objective

The objective is to provide readily available, consistent information on timber, wood products, and paper products industries for forestry and forest industry strategic planning. The intent is to provide information to aid the Forest Service, other government agencies, and industry in making short- and long-term decisions about forestry and industry management.



Approach

Data are compiled from many sources of industry and government statistics taken from weekly, monthly, and annual reports. Adjustments, conversions, and interpolations are made as needed to provide complete and consistent data series. Special calculations are made to estimate U.S. timber harvest and roundwood equivalent of imported products by converting product production or import estimates to estimates of roundwood needed to produce the products. Reports are published in printed form and on the internet (both formatted for printing and as spreadsheets).

Expected Outcomes

As a result of this work, consistent data and trend information are being provided on timber production, consumption, trade, and prices for U.S. government, U.S. industry, and international organizations reporting on the forest sector. These organizations need a consistent and reliable source of statistics to produce their reports and plan future management.

Timeline

This research is continuous, with numerous reports and research publications produced annually. The comprehensive data and trend report—U.S. Timber Production, Trade, Consumption and Price Statistics—is produced biennially. An overview of U.S. forest sector market trends is produced and published annually for UN/ECE. Data are also provided annually for UN/ECE, FAO, and ITTO publications and for U.S. Statistical Abstracts and USDA Agricultural Statistics.

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