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Contents

Statistics in this issue

Russia steps in to fill gaps in Chinese supply as availability of tropical wood declines

This month's review* of the international trade in tropical hardwood indicates that the overall trade in tropical hardwood logs remains in continual decline, with further emphasis on domestic processing in Southeast Asian and African supplier countries. Furthermore, indications are that increased trade between Russia and China is helping to decrease China's dependence on tropical log imports for its burgeoning plywood industry. Meanwhile, the overall trade in tropical sawn lumber and plywood grew in 2004, although there were important changes in production and consumption levels.

Tropical hardwood logs

Overall, tropical hardwood log production amongst the ITTO members is estimated to have fallen slightly during 2004, as compared to the previous year, from roughly 135 million m3 to 134 million m3. While log production in Africa and Southeast Asia was down by 9% and 6% respectively in 2004, this was partly offset by a significant increase in log production in Brazil. However it must be stressed that much of the production data is highly speculative.

Figures for Brazil are particularly uncertain. In recent years Brazil's production of hardwood logs has been variably estimated at between 30 and 60 million m3 per year, the uncertainty largely a reflection of the Amazonian industry's dependence on wood from conversion forests. ITTO quotes a relatively low estimate of 30 million m3 for Brazilian production in 2004. However we speculate that this probably under-estimates the true level of production, suggesting a figure closer to 35 million m3. Recent satellite images indicate that the rate of forest conversion in the Brazilian Amazon increased last year, boosted by infra-structure development projects and in response to strong demand for commercial cash crops. Demand for Brazilian wood was also improving last year, both in the domestic market and overseas. It is true that legal requirements for commercial forestry operations have become progressively tighter and more complicated in Brazil in recent times, while the ban on the mahogany trade is more strictly enforced. However, some reports suggest that this increase in legislation on commercial forestry operations is only encouraging more forest conversion, since it has made forestry even less economically competive compared to commercial cash cropping.

The real level of harvesting in Indonesia is equally uncertain. A recent study by the Ministry of Forestry and the German aid agency GTZ compares the official log production data with that calculated on the basis of estimated production of sawn lumber and plywood. Official log production data, which draws on logging licenses is-

▶2

**Note this analysis is based on data drawn from a review just published by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), amended to include more recent and more accurate data from a range of sources notably ATIBT and Eurostat. It covers all member countries of the ITTO which account for the vast majority of the global trade in tropical hardwood products. ITTO's review is available at www.itto.or.jp*

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Editorial - rubbish numbers

One fact stands out when undertaking our usual summer review of the previous year's hardwood production and trade statistics. That is the appalling quality of the data. It is quite clear that nobody really has any idea of the volume of logs harvested every year - let alone the volume converted to lumber, plywood or veneers - across vast swathes of the world's forests. Brazilian production is variously estimated at between 30 million and 60 million m3. Indonesian log production may be anywhere between 30 million and 70 million m3.

Nor should those of us living in rich western countries feel smug. To understand that this is a global phenomena, one only need compare the 2004 data on sawn hardwood production for Romania and Germany supplied by the UNECE Timber Committee (respectively 1.78 million m3 and 1.4 million m3) with that compiled by the European Organisation of Sawmillers (respectively 1.28 million m3 and 1.1 million m3).

This lack of reliable data is a huge problem for the international forest sector - perhaps even it's biggest problem. Businesses cannot plan ahead effectively because they do not know the likely availability of supply from one month to the next, let alone in 12 months time. Multi-million dollar investment decisions are made on the basis of incomplete - even erroneous - information. Company efforts to set prices are a lottery.

So where does the problem lie. It doesn't seem fair to blame the secretariats of UN bodies like ITTO, FAO and UNECE Timber Committee that are charged with gathering the data. They do their best with the rubbish numbers regularly served up by national correspondents. These UN bodies seem underfunded and lack power to force national governments to improve and standardise their information provision. In response to their request for information to compile the tropical trade review last year, ITTO received only 14 "good responses" from national correspondents in 59 ITTO member countries. 6 countries didn't even bother to respond. The remainder provided incomplete or erroneous information. If the UN bodies are to be blamed, it is for their part in maintaining the pretence that there is reliable information available.

A larger share of the responsibility for the failure of information lies with national and state government departments charged with regulating forest assets. Indeed, it is hard to imagine how these same departments can be effective regulators if so few are able - or willing - to provide accurate information on the real volume of wood harvested and processed each year.

Rupert Oliver

Tropical hardwood log review

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sued, suggests that total log production in the country declined from a peak of 28 million in 1997 to around 8 million m3 in 2002. However, calculations based on log equivalent volumes of processed wood products in Indonesia suggest harvesting may have actually increased from 38 million m3 to around 50 million m3 during the same period. The difference reflects the increasing level of unregulated and illegal logging in the country with the collapse of government central control following the fall of the Suhartoregime in 1998. In our figures, we speculate that Indonesia's production of hardwood logs has dropped by perhaps 10% since 2002-2003. This is based on evidence that recent efforts to crackdown on illegal logging may be having some effect. And perhaps more importantly, there are clear signs that the availability of high quality logs is falling rapidly in the most accessible areas.

Malaysian production falls

Elsewhere in Southeast Asia, Malaysia's production of hardwood logs decreased by around 8% in 2004, as compared to the previous year and this was almost entirely due to domestic supply issues. Malaysian harvesting control is increasing, while availability from conversion forests is progressively declining. At the same time, in Africa, there were few major shifts in log production last year, with the exception of Ivory Coast, where continued political unrest is hampering forest extraction. Very little change was seen in the production levels in Cameroon, while Gabon registered an 8% decrease in production, due to weakening demand.

Exports of tropical hardwood logs from ITTO producer countries decreased by a substantial 16% to around 11.7 million m3 in 2004, as compared to the previous year and according to the available data. However, these figures do not take into account the huge illegal and unsustainable trade in merbau logs from the Indonesian state of Papua, which are destined for the Chinese flooring sector. Reports suggest that until a recent crackdown, as much as 3.6 million m3 of merbau logs were being smuggled out of Papua every year, destined mainly for the Chinese flooring manufacturing sector.

Continued decline in exports

The continued decline in tropical log exports is indicative of both declining availability

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Tropical hardwood log review

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of logs and efforts by supplying countries to increase domestic processing and maximise revenue from value-added exports. However, the massive growth in China's wood processing industry, driven by strong economic development, low labour costs and surging export demand for its products, has been partially undermining these efforts. In certain cases, however, supplying countries boosted their efforts in 2004 to maximise domestic conversion of logs to sawn lumber. For example, while Malaysia's production and exports of hardwood logs fell last year, its production and exports of sawn lumber increased by around 23% and 20% respectively. This was almost entirely accounted for by the state of Sarawak, where considerable efforts have been made to increase the returns from wood product exports and not to just feed logs into the Chinese market.

Rise in Latin American log exports

Despite an increase in log exports from Latin America during 2004, in line with rising production, this does not account for a large percentage of overall exports from ITTO's producer members. The Asia-Pacific region supplies the bulk of the world's traded tropical hardwood logs and, therefore, the significant drops in exports from Malaysia and Indonesia are the major influencing factors behind the overall decrease in trade. However, they cannot be taken alone, as exports of logs from most African supplying countries also fell last year, partly due to decreasing availability of logs and partly due to increased domestic processing.

It is important to note that, ITTO's second most important tropical hardwood log exporter, Papua New Guinea, actually recorded an increase in exports in 2004. The volume of exports rose by around 1% to just break the 2 million m3 mark.

ITTO "Consumers"

As reported in last year's review of the international tropical hardwood trade, two ITTO consumer coutries possess significant tropical timber resources: Australia and China. While Australia's production of logs is estimated not to have changed since 2003, China's tropical log production increased to 2.3 million m3 in 2004. In an effort to reduce its reliance on imports, China has increased fellings of domestic timber and is also embarking on an ambitious (if not unrealistic) programme of forest planting. It remains to be seen whether China's tropical forests can sustain the current levels of log production in the long-term. The bulk of China's tropical hardwood production comes from its southern provinces of Hainan Island and Yunnan. Logs produced from these areas are almost entirely consumed on the domestic market.

Tropical log imports down

Although perhaps very obvious, it is important to note that, since exports of tropical logs from ITTO producer members decreased in 2004, imports of tropical logs by ITTO consumers were also down on the previous year. The most significant change, was seen in China, where imports of tropical logs fell for the first time in at least four years. In comparison with imports in 2003, China's imports fell by 3% last year to a volume of 7.3 million m3. While China's imports of hardwood logs from Myanmar and the Congo Republic actually increased last year, its imports from Malaysia, Gabon and Papua New Guinea decreased. The main factors influencing this decline in imports of tropical logs are those that have already been mentioned – decreased availability of Asian and African supplies, as well as increased domestic sawn lumber production within supplying countries. However, additional to these, is the ever-increasing volume of temperate hardwood logs imported by China from Russia, which has allowed Chinese importers to switch from expensive and unreliable sources in Africa. This trend is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Russian hardwood supplies manage to maintain their edge over other suppliers – notably the United States – by keeping costs down. This is helped by low road transportation charges and a system of preferential tax treatment.

Aside from China, the greatest fall in tropical log imports was seen in Europe, which decreased by 8% to just under 1.2 million m3 in 2004. Most notable among the EU's consumers are Italy and France which posted 23% and 9% decreases in tropical hardwood log imports respectively last year.

ITTO Members - Tropical Hardwood log Imports (000 m3)

	2002	2003	2004	% var 02/03
Egypt	3	3	20	567
Australia	0	1	1	0
China	7100	7561	7307	-3
Hong Kong	250	250	34	-86
Japan	2000	1953	1505	-23
New Zealand	2	5	1	-80
Republic of Korea	450	368	473	29
Taiwan	723	852	880	3
Asia-Pacific consumers	**10529**	**10993**	**10221**	-7
Austria	4	3	1	-60
Belgium/Luxembourg	26	27	33	22
Denmark	5	6	4	-33
France	636	549	500	-9
Germany	116	83	98	18
Greece	50	50	40	-20
Ireland	10	12	5	-58
Italy	312	200	154	-23
Netherlands	60	40	20	-50
Portugal	260	179	181	1
Spain	150	104	118	13
Sweden	3	9	4	-56
Switzerland	10	5	1	-80
United Kingdom	25	15	18	20
EU consumers	**1667**	**1282**	**1177**	-8
Canada	1	1	1	0
U.S.A.	1	2	2	0
N. America consumers	**2**	**3**	**3**	0
All ITTO Consumers	**12198**	**12278**	**11401**	-7
Côte d'Ivoire	25	10	10	0
Ghana	0	0	2	
Togo	1	1	1	0
Africa Producers	**26**	**16**	**13**	-19
India	1645	1561	1884	21
Indonesia	84	84	10	-88
Malaysia	162	183	73	-60
Philippines	499	230	300	30
Thailand	572	639	450	-30
Asia-Pacific Producers	**2962**	**2697**	**2717**	1
Bolivia	2	1	2	100
Brazil	1	33	3	-91
Trinidad and Tobago	5	4	4	0
Latin America Producers	**10**	**38**	**9**	-76
All ITTO Producers	**2998**	**2751**	**2739**	0
All ITTO Members	**15196**	**15915**	**14140**	-11

ITTO Producer Members - Tropical Log Production and Export (000m3)

	Tropical Hardwood Production				Tropical Hardwood Exports			
	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03/04	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03/04
Cameroon	1950	1700	1700	0	219	250	141	-44
Central African Republic	750	550	570	4	313	232	195	-16
Congo, Dem. Rep.	200	60	90	50	60	50	58	16
Congo, Rep.	890	1050	1300	24	640	712	844	19
Côte d'Ivoire	2000	1800	1300	-28	130	86	60	-30
Gabon	2500	4000	3700	-8	1928	1700	1500	-12
Ghana	1100	1500	1400	-7	0	0	0	
Liberia	1364	950	500	-47	981	900	0	-100
Togo	300	250	208	-17	15	10	17	70
Africa	**11054**	**11860**	**10768**	-9	**4286**	**3940**	**2815**	-29
Cambodia	110	125	125	0	0	0	0	
Fiji	90	120	130	8	0	0	0	
India	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	
Indonesia	58000	50000	45000	-10	2000	1800	100	-94
Malaysia	19500	19485	18000	-8	5091	5222	5088	-3
Myanmar	3399	3002	3931	31	582	867	1450	67
Papua New Guinea	1700	2015	2012	0	1500	2015	2012	0
Philippines	390	364	478	31	1	16	0	-100
Thailand	7800	7800	7800	0	3	3	8	167
Vanuatu	30	30	30	0	1	1	1	0
Asia-Pacific	**91019**	**82941**	**77506**	-7	**9178**	**9924**	**8659**	-13
Bolivia	559	637	650	2	2	2	4	100
Brazil	28835	29700	35000	18	4	9	67	644
Colombia	1645	1826	2165	19	7	13	16	23
Ecuador	5278	5278	5278	0	174	25	69	176
Guatemala	100	100	100	0	0	0	1	100
Guyana	297	300	250	-17	40	38	66	74
Honduras	18	25	25	0	0	0	0	
Panama	64	192	90	-53	9	9	30	233
Peru	1063	1390	1221	-12	0	0	0	
Suriname	162	161	155	-4	26	14	10	-29
Trinidad and Tobago	65	73	64	-12	0	0	0	
Venezuela	647	500	550	10	5	5	7	40
Latin America/Caribbean	**35899**	**40182**	**45548**	13	**267**	**115**	**270**	135
All ITTO Producers	**137972**	**134983**	**133822**	-1	**13731**	**13979**	**11744**	-16

Tropical hardwood sawn lumber review

Sarawak and Brazil boost sawn lumber production

Overall tropical sawn lumber production is estimated to have grown to around 40 million m3 in 2004. These figures shouldn't be taken at face value and allowances must be made for countries where statistics are seldom reliable. The jump in production is mainly accounted for by Brazil in line with revised estimates for log production and sawn lumber exports. There was also a significant increase in sawn lumber production in Malaysia last year, which rose to 5.6 million m3 from 4.6 million m3 in 2003. This marks a change in strategy in Sarawak to export fewer logs and more lumber.

Production of sawn lumber is also reported to have increased in Myanmar in 2004, jumping to over 1 million m3 from under 400,000 m3 in the previous year. Although this figure may not be as reliable as those from Malaysia, it may be indicative of new regulations in Myanmar, which are designed to combat illegal log exports and to maximise return from wood processing. Indonesian lumber production is assumed to have declined slightly as availability of good quality logs has fallen. Thai production is dependent largely on rubberwood plantations and is assumed to have remained stable.

Rising sawn lumber exports

ITTO producers exported a total of 9.6 million m3 of sawn lumber last year, increasing by 9% overall from 2003. Rising exports from Brazil, Malaysia and, to a lesser extent, Myanmar, offset a general decrease in sawn lumber exports from Africa.

With the exceptions of Gabon and the Congo Republic, African exports of tropical sawn lumber either remained unchanged from the previous year, or dropped slightly. Gabon's increase in exports reflects investment in its domestic sawmilling industry by French companies, who are making efforts to maximise export returns from Gabon's forest products sector. At the same time in Southeast Asia, Indonesia's exports of sawn lumber continued to decline, while exports from Malaysia grew significantly and in line with increasing domestic conversion of logs, notably in Sarawak. Brazil's exports of sawn tropical lumber also grew last year and this reflects its strengthening position as one of the world's most important tropical timber suppliers, particularly in the face of supply problems in Africa and Southeast Asia. However, Brazil is continually dogged by problems with the consistency of supply for various reasons including: industrial action; unreliable shipping lines; poor infra-structure; heavy dependence on conversion forest; and a long heavy rainy season. Much of Brazil's increased sawn lumber exports were absorbed into its two main markets, China and the United States, where imports grew substantially last year.

Loss of share to temperate species

Overall, ITTO consumers of sawn tropical hardwood show that imports actually fell during 2004. The substantial fall in imports into the main consuming markets - China, Hong Kong and Japan - could not be offset by the increase in imports into Europe and North America. This indicates that temperate hardwoods have maintained their importance in major world markets, particularly with the current fashions for oak and walnut. Furthermore, temperate hardwoods have been less affected than tropical hardwoods by supply issues. Rising export levels from the United States, Europe and Russia underline this fact. In addition to this, there was a partial switch in China in 2004 from hardwood to softwood, again due to difficulties with supply from Africa and Southeast Asia and ease and proximity of dealing with Russia.

ITTO Producer Members - Tropical Sawn Lumber Production and Export (000m3)

	Tropical Hardwood Production				Tropical Hardwood Exports			
	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03/04	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03/04
Cameroon	900	900	710	-21	793	890	685	-23
Central African Republic	150	150	107	-29	56	50	44	-12
Congo, Dem. Rep.	70	7	15	114	20	6	14	133
Congo, Rep.	135	170	180	6	127	133	142	7
Côte d'Ivoire	625	436	400	-8	425	349	300	-14
Gabon	117	117	300	156	103	103	250	143
Ghana	461	511	506	-1	215	199	210	6
Liberia	30	25	100	300	6	20	0	-100
Togo	12	10	13	30	5	0	6	100
Africa	**2500**	**2326**	**2331**	0	**1750**	**1750**	**1651**	-6
Cambodia	5	5	4	-20	5	5	2	-60
Fiji	25	49	1	-98	7	6	0	-100
India	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	
Indonesia	8250	8250	8100	-2	2300	2100	2000	-5
Malaysia	5000	4552	5598	23	2334	2372	2850	20
Myanmar	379	391	1089	179	29	27	226	737
Papua New Guinea	60	60	60	0	50	40	20	-50
Philippines	188	151	245	62	121	98	155	58
Thailand	2400	2200	2200	0	761	1000	947	-5
Vanuatu	14	14	14	0	11	11	11	0
Asia-Pacific	**16321**	**15672**	**17311**	10	**5618**	**5659**	**6211**	10
Bolivia	329	351	325	-7	49	41	41	0
Brazil	15300	15912	17500	10	1233	1148	1466	28
Colombia	479	480	602	25	0	0	6	100
Ecuador	400	400	500	25	14	20	12	-40
Guatemala	40	40	30	-25	15	15	1	-93
Guyana	31	30	50	67	25	28	27	-4
Honduras	10	10	12	20	0	0	0	
Panama	30	6	30	400	1	3	12	300
Peru	491	598	636	6	100	106	133	25
Suriname	51	50	45	-10	5	10	8	-20
Trinidad and Tobago	41	47	37	-21	0	0	0	
Venezuela	202	220	255	16	0	0	0	
Latin America/Caribbean	**17404**	**18144**	**20022**	10	**1442**	**1371**	**1706**	24
All ITTO Producers	**36225**	**36142**	**39664**	10	**8810**	**8780**	**9568**	9

ITTO Members - Tropical Hardwood Sawn lumber Imports (000 m3)

	2002	2003	2004	% var 03/04
Egypt	0	4	1	-75
Australia	83	12	18	50
China	3096	4092	2981	-27
Hong Kong	133	698	458	-34
Japan	514	491	292	-41
Macao	4	2	5	150
New Zealand	3	3	6	100
Republic of Korea	360	264	310	17
Taiwan	200	353	423	20
Asia-Pacific consumers	**4393**	**5919**	**4494**	-24
Austria	6	6	7	17
Belgium/Luxembourg	235	238	239	0
Denmark	70	33	37	12
Finland	7	4	5	25
France	300	297	382	29
Germany	143	121	142	17
Greece	45	13	15	15
Ireland	50	50	65	30
Italy	460	340	357	5
Netherlands	423	379	397	5
Norway	9	3	3	0
Portugal	132	101	125	24
Spain	440	583	561	-4
Sweden	10	10	12	20
Switzerland	14	15	10	-33
United Kingdom	225	219	177	-19
EU consumers	**2569**	**2412**	**2534**	5
Canada	12	35	50	43
U.S.A.	344	240	265	10
N. America consumers	**356**	**275**	**315**	15
All ITTO Consumers	**7318**	**8606**	**7343**	-15
Gabon	14	14	1	-93
Togo	15	15	10	-33
Africa producers	**29**	**29**	**11**	-62
India	7	6	8	33
Indonesia	20	27	26	-4
Malaysia	245	882	750	-15
Philippines	325	210	145	-31
Thailand	1050	1496	1416	-5
Vanuatu	0	0	0	
Asia-Pacific producers	**1647**	**2622**	**2345**	-11
Bolivia	2	1	4	300
Brazil	130	11	3	-73
Trinidad and Tobago	6	4	4	0
Venezuela	30	14	30	114
Latin America producers	**169**	**31**	**41**	32
All ITTO Producers	**1844**	**2681**	**2397**	-11
All ITTO Members	**9163**	**11287**	**9740**	-14

Tropical wood makes a comeback

In Europe and North America, however, tropical sawn lumber imports made a comeback last year, increasing by 5% into Europe and 15% into North America, as compared to 2003. Significant increases were seen in France, Holland and Italy, while marginal decreases were seen in imports into Spain and the United Kingdom. In North America, particularly the USA, the housing boom and continued strengthening of the economy helped to boost imports of tropical species and this is not expected to change in 2005.

Tropical hardwood plywood review

Malaysian plywood industry benefits from Indonesia's slide

Production of hardwood plywood amongst ITTO's producer countries rose to 13.6 million m3 in 2004, after having fallen to around 13 million m3 in the previous year. However, once again, these figures should be treated with caution. African production of plywood remained almost unchanged, with perhaps a slight increase in Ghana. In the Asia-Pacific region, production fell in Indonesia, while Malaysian production of hardwood plywood increased by 11% to around 4.8 million m3. Plywood production is also estimated to have increased in Brazil - in line with overall increased production of forest products – and in both Colombia and Ecuador.

ITTO producer members are not the only producers of tropical hardwood plywood. In fact ITTO consumer members produced as much as 6 million m3 in 2004 (around 31% of total ITTO member production), rising from 5.7 million m3 the previous year. The increase was almost entirely accounted for by China, which is the world's third largest producer of tropical plywood, with the production volume rising by 10% in 2004 to 4.4 million m3. China has more than doubled its tropical plywood production in the last five years to keep pace with the demand of its growing construction sector and to feed a growing export sector.

While production has grown in China, tropical plywood production in Japan decreased by 7% in 2003 to slightly over 750,000 m3 and then by 20% in 2004 to 625,000 m3. Japan's production has more than halved in the last five years and now equates to a mere fraction of plywood imports. This is a big change from the situation that existed from 1945-95, when domestic production consistently exceeded imports. Japanese plywood manufacturers are increasing the proportion of softwoods used in plywood production, as well as introducing lamination and other techniques to allow re-use of concrete form-ply. Substitution by reconstituted panels is also occurring. In addition, several plywood manufacturers from Japan (as well as from Taiwan and elsewhere) have established joint ventures for plywood and other panel products in lower-cost producer countries.

ITTO Producer Members - Tropical Plywood Production and Export (000m3)

	Tropical Hardwood Production				Tropical Hardwood Exports			
	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03/04	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03/04
Cameroon	23	48	50	4	27	47	50	6
Central African Republic	4	4	1	-75	0	0	0	
Congo, Dem. Rep.	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Congo, Rep.	0	4	6	50	0	4	6	50
Côte d'Ivoire	80	55	50	-9	40	38	25	-34
Gabon	141	141	140	-1	30	30	125	317
Ghana	104	105	127	21	75	80	75	-6
Africa	**353**	**358**	**375**	5	**172**	**199**	**281**	41
Cambodia	14	14	25	79	14	14	20	43
Fiji	10	8	8	0	5	6	0	-100
India	n/a	n/a	n/z		n/a	n/a	n/a	
Indonesia	7300	6550	6400	-2	6500	5520	5500	0
Malaysia	4600	4267	4751	11	3511	3700	4398	19
Myanmar	19	20	78	290	5	5	72	1340
Papua New Guinea	5	5	5	0	3	3	3	0
Philippines	329	371	379	2	7	29	20	-31
Thailand	120	120	90	-25	26	3	2	-33
Asia-Pacific	**12397**	**11355**	**11736**	3	**10071**	**9280**	**10015**	8
Bolivia	4	4	4	0	1	0	0	
Brazil	1200	1000	1200	20	759	1028	1091	6
Colombia	26	31	45	45	2	3	4	33
Ecuador	85	85	100	18	20	68	70	3
Guatemala	10	10	10	0	1	0	5	100
Guyana	51	51	40	-22	50	41	35	-15
Peru	71	96	90	-6	15	0	14	100
Latin America/Caribbean	**1450**	**1297**	**1503**	16	**849**	**1140**	**1219**	7
All ITTO Producers	**14200**	**13010**	**13614**	5	**11092**	**10619**	**11515**	8

ITTO Members - Tropical Hardwood Plywood Imports (000 m3)

	2002	2003	2004	% var 03/04
Egypt	156	156	0	-100
Australia	7	23	15	-35
China	570	728	673	-8
Hong Kong	270	246	333	35
Japan	4308	3719	4615	24
Macao	16	14	18	29
New Zealand	4	5	4	-20
Republic of Korea	1200	1108	1346	21
Taiwan	500	655	639	-2
Asia-Pacific consumers	**7030**	**6654**	**7643**	15
Austria	9	13	13	0
Belgium/Luxembourg	354	346	283	-18
Denmark	40	46	134	191
Finland	1	1	1	0
France	130	134	131	-2
Germany	175	140	126	-10
Greece	7	21	26	24
Ireland	53	34	40	18
Italy	110	121	120	-1
Netherlands	300	202	180	-11
Norway	3	35	8	-77
Portugal	3	4	5	25
Spain	19	16	17	6
Sweden	5	3	4	33
Switzerland	9	10	0	-100
United Kingdom	566	598	600	0
EU consumers	**1784**	**1724**	**1688**	-2
Canada	200	150	100	-33
U.S.A.	1340	1370	1500	9
N. America consumers	**1540**	**1520**	**1600**	5
All ITTO Consumers	**10354**	**9898**	**10931**	10
Cameroon	0	0	3	100
Gabon	10	10	12	20
Togo	1	1	1	0
Africa producers	**11**	**11**	**16**	45
India	4	11	7	-36
Indonesia	0	4	3	-25
Malaysia	17	12	5	-58
Philippines	8	19	25	32
Thailand	20	22	85	286
Vanuatu	0	0	0	
Asia-Pacific producers	**49**	**68**	**125**	84
Guatemala	1	3	0	-100
Panama	24	2	1	-50
Suriname	3	2	4	100
Venezuela	20	15	8	-47
Latin America producers	**50**	**25**	**13**	-48
All ITTO Producers	**110**	**104**	**154**	48
All ITTO Members	**10464**	**10002**	**11085**	11

Japan's imports rise

In marked contrast to the previous three years, ITTO shows that Japan's imports of tropical hardwood plywood increased substantially in 2004. Volumes rose to 4.6 million m3 from around 3.7 million m3 in 2003. However, this is not expected to be an indication of a revival in the Japanese market and is more likely to reflect an upsurge in imports due to gaps in supply in 2003. A change in building standards in 2003 imposed requirements for low formaldehyde emissions on plywood and suppliers from overseas were not able to comply in the short-term. Despite overcoming this difficulty, Indonesia's plywood mills have continued to decrease production through 2004 and Malaysia's have been able to jump into the lead, as Japan's premier supplier.

US imports soar

While European imports of tropical hardwood plywood were slightly lower in 2004 than in the previous year, North American tropical hardwood plywood imports increased substantially. In the EU, the decrease in imports was almost entirely accounted for by weak demand in Belgium and the Netherlands, due to far-from-improved conditions in the construction sector. In all other EU markets, however, improving economic conditions meant that importers were able to rebuild stocks. In the US, however, the continued expansion of the construction sector and record housing starts, mean that plywood has continued to develop into an increasingly important commodity. The United States imports of all hardwood plywood in 2004 reached a value of $1.5 billion, which was a 56% increase on the previous year. Of that total, around $900 million worth was accounted for by tropical hardwood plywood. China is now by far the leading supplier of plywood to the United States.

Tropical hardwood veneer review

Malaysia steps up veneer output to feed expanding plywood production

Production of tropical veneer in ITTO producing countries reached a volume of 2.3 million m3 in 2004, down slightly on the previous year. Veneer production figures should not include veneer used in domestic plywood production and therefore represent only the production of veneer intended to be traded as such. But again production figures can be notoriously unreliable. Malaysia, the world's largest tropical hardwood veneer producer, stepped up production in 2004 by 26% to around 679,000 m3. This is in stark contrast to the previous year, when veneer production fell substantially, due to efforts by the Malaysian industry to restrict the export trade in rotary veneers, particularly to China, and to divert more of the available volume to domestic plywood mills. With exports of Malaysian veneer down to around 408,000 m3 in 2004, as compared to 576,000 m3 in 2003, it seems highly likely that the production figures quoted for Malaysia include some rotary veneers for the growing domestic plywood industry.

Elsewhere in Asia, there seems to be significant uncertainty concerning tropical veneer production in Philippinnes. ITTO data suggests production in the country increased to 519,000 m3 last year, but this directly contradicts US Embassy reports from the country which highlight severe log supply problems due to continuing rapid deforestation. This does not seem an environment conducive to investment in new veneer production capacity. Therefore we prefer the US Embassy's data indicating a fall in the nation's veneer production last year.

Tropical veneer production in Brazil and the other Latin American producing countries is estimated by ITTO to have remained unchanged in 2004, while in Africa a significant decrease was seen in production by Ivory Coast, where political problems consistently dog the forest products sector. Meanwhile in Gabon, veneer production rose from 110,000 m3 in 2003 to 140,000 m3 in 2004, reflecting increasing investment in the countries wood processing sector.

While in 2003, tropical veneers imports in ITTO consumer countries rose by 23% to 1.3 million m3, last year they fell by 19% to just over 1 million m3. The greatest decrease was seen in Asia, where imports into China, Hong Kong, Korea and Taiwan all fell considerably. This partly reflects the increase in domestic veneer production in these countries – specifically China – where the growing number of domestic plywood mills are relying on locally-produced veneer.

Imports in Europe also fell in 2004, as compared to the previous year and this was mainly a result of a decrease in demand from Italy. Tropical veneer imports into Italy grew substantially in 2003 and the drop in 2004 is most likely due to overstocking and also difficulties in supply. Furthermore, increasing numbers of Italian furniture manufacturers are shifting component production into Eastern Europe and this may have also had an effect. Meanwhile, the French market saw an upsurge in demand for tropical veneers last year.

As with tropical plywood, tropical veneer imports in the US market increased in 2004 and reached a volume of 85,000 m3, up by 4% from the previous year. Although not a dramatic increase, this continues to underline the market's booming construction sector and the resultant growth in interest in imported, tropical hardwood species.

ITTO Producer Members - Tropical Veneer Production and Export (000m3)

	Tropical Hardwood Production				Tropical Hardwood Exports			
	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03/04	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03/04
Cameroon	34	50	53	6	27	27	23	-15
Congo, Dem. Rep.	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Congo, Rep.	17	21	32	52	17	18	28	56
Côte d'Ivoire	300	230	150	-35	120	151	60	-60
Gabon	110	200	140	-30	108	108	140	30
Ghana	264	300	300	0	115	116	112	-3
Africa	**726**	**802**	**676**	-16	**387**	**420**	**363**	-14
Cambodia	23	45	20	-56	23	45	2	-96
Fiji	10	8	8	0	1	2	0	-100
India	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	
Indonesia	94	45	55	22	5	4	1	-75
Malaysia	750	540	679	26	600	576	408	-29
Myanmar	0	1	2	100	0	0	0	
Papua New Guinea	20	35	20	-43	20	35	20	-43
Philippines	311	294	250	-3	2	6	3	-50
Thailand	150	160	160	0	1	2	2	0
Vanuatu	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Asia-Pacific	**1358**	**1128**	**1194**	6	**652**	**670**	**436**	-35
Bolivia	4	4	4	0	3	1	1	0
Brazil	370	370	370	0	161	161	88	-45
Ecuador	5	5	6	20	0	0	0	
Guatemala	1	1	5	400	0	1	1	0
Peru	10	6	7	17	5	1	7	600
Venezuela	25	20	15	-25	0	0	0	
Latin America/Caribbean	**416**	**408**	**408**	0	**170**	**164**	**97**	-41
All ITTO Producers	**2500**	**2338**	**2278**	-3	**1210**	**1090**	**896**	-18

ITTO Members - Tropical Hardwood Veneer Imports (000 m3)

	2002	2003	2004	% var 03/04
Egypt	44	3	0	-100
Australia	4	1	2	100
China	150	124	99	-20
Hong Kong	25	163	20	-88
Japan	9	31	34	10
New Zealand	1	0	1	100
Republic of Korea	203	334	231	-31
Taiwan	170	160	139	-13
Asia-Pacific Consumers	**606**	**816**	**526**	-36
Austria	2	1	2	100
Belgium/Luxembourg	21	18	10	-44
Denmark	9	15	10	-33
Finland	1	1	1	0
France	110	127	149	17
Germany	43	44	42	-5
Greece	11	5	9	80
Ireland	1	3	1	-67
Italy	113	138	113	-18
Netherlands	5	6	5	-17
Norway	4	4	1	-75
Portugal	19	16	13	-19
Spain	80	67	58	-13
Sweden	2	3	3	0
United Kingdom	6	10	10	0
EU consumers	**427**	**458**	**427**	-7
Canada	15	19	28	47
U.S.A.	72	82	85	4
N. American consumers	**87**	**43**	**113**	163
All ITTO Consumers	**1121**	**1317**	**1066**	-19
Cameroon	0	0	8	100
Gabon	3	3	6	100
Africa Producers	**3**	**3**	**14**	367
India	0	3	3	0
Indonesia	3	4	3	-25
Malaysia	43	60	120	100
Philippines	127	85	70	-18
Thailand	11	12	23	92
Asia-Pacific Producers	**185**	**163**	**219**	34
Latin America Producers	**5**	**4**	**2**	-50
All ITTO Producers	**193**	**171**	**235**	37
All ITTO Members	**1314**	**1488**	**1301**	-13

Africa

Gabon

Log exports continue to slide

Log exports from Gabon continue to fall by around 10-15% per year and in 2004, exports fell by 11.7% to a volume of 1.5 million m3, as compared to the previous year. One reason is a new obligation on concessionaires to introduce sustainable management plans which, amongst other things, require a reduction in exports of the principal species and development of domestic capacity, particularly for okoume veneer and sawn lumber production. It is difficult to quantify the exact volume of logs entering Gabonese mills and therefore, annual timber transformation. However, ATIBT estimates production of sawn and/or peeled timber to be in the region of 500,000m3, which is roughly equal to one quarter of total production. Additional reasons for the decline in log exports are a generally weak (although improving) international demand for tropical logs

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and the weakness of the US dollar which undermines the competitive position of African products invoiced in euros. Furthermore, ATIBT cites SNGB's monopoly over the export trade in okoume and ozigo as contributing to the fall in log exports last year. This monopoly had the effect of reducing competitiveness of export log prices. SNBG's monopoly was removed early in 2005.

Gabon's largest market for okoume is China, but in 2004, Chinese imports of okoume fell by a dramatic 40% to a little over 438,000 m3. Gabon's dependency upon China as an export market is very significant and for a country in which the forest products sector is the second largest employer after the state, reliable export markets are all important. This, however, is a delicate situation, as Chinese manufacturers are able to profit from competitive labour rates, as well as favourable exchange rates and export aid in order to undermine Gabon's traditional European and American markets, as well as African sawmills. Gabon's Management Plan is designed, in part, to reduce the country's dependency on markets such as China and, now more than ever, it would seem the right thing to do.

Further species diversification

While exports of okoume/ozigo logs fell by around 24% in 2004, exports of other species actually increased by 10%. This underlines the success of the new sustainable management plans. It also shows how Gabon is able to profit from exporting certain species in log form, for which exports are banned in other countries. In fact, exports of moabi, iroko, acajou and sapelli logs, amongst others, all increased last year and these are forbidden in other countries.

With a drop in China's imports of Gabon's hardwoods, other than okoume/ozigo, France became the country's number one export market for this diverse species mix. Elsewhere in Europe, exports also picked up, with increases into Italy, Portugal, Germany, Greece and Spain. These increases, helped by improving demand in India and Turkey, more than made up for the loss in exports to Hong Kong and Japan.

Gabon wood product exports
Volume (000 m3), Source ITTO/ATIBT

	2003	2004	% var
Veneer	195.0	140.0	-28.2
Sawn lumber	92.0	250.0	171.7
Plywood	30.0	125.0	316.7
Total	**317.0**	**515.0**	**62.5**

Gabon Log Exports
Volume (000s m3), Source ATIBT

	2001	2002	2003	2004	% var
Okoume/ozigo logs by export destination					
China	860.3	822.2	732.6	438.2	-40.2
France	324.6	227.8	188.7	191.5	1.5
Morocco	100.3	83.1	89.7	112.9	25.9
Greece	39.6	37.7	30.5	31.2	2.4
Turkey	11.3	17.6	17.5	29.8	70.8
Spain	12.4	17.2	18.7	19.6	4.9
Hong Kong	39.4	9.1	10.8	8.4	-22.4
Italy	6.1	6.1	3.9	4.4	13.1
Netherlands	17.8	6.0	0.2	0.0	-100.0
Algeria	26.7	3.0	6.9	4.0	-41.8
Mexico	3.3	2.7	4.7		
Malaysia	4.6	2.7	0.2	0.5	164.6
Israel	11.0	1.7	0.0		
Germany	3.8	1.4	1.5	2.6	68.0
Tunisia	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.6	733.3
Portugal	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-100.0
Japan	5.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	-100.0
Korea	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Philippines	38.4	0.0	0.0		
Others	3.1	3.9	4.4	5.0	13.0
Total	**1514.7**	**1243.1**	**1110.5**	**848.7**	**-23.6**
Other logs by export destination					
China	61.1	100.4	141.2	135.3	-4.2
France	183.6	128.9	136.3	141.4	3.7
India	133.2	142.4	99.2	102.1	2.9
Italy	58.5	51.8	44.6	69.8	56.5
Portugal	107.5	72.9	44.0	61.1	38.9
Taiwan		32.3	32.4	36.8	13.6
Hong Kong	77.2	54.0	20.5	0.2	-99.0
Turkey	22.8	12.4	18.8	31.1	65.4
Netherlands	18.1	20.4	18.0	8.6	-52.2
Germany	28.1	15.1	16.3	35.0	114.7
Japan	16.0	10.2	9.1	2.4	-73.6
Greece	22.8	15.4	8.8	17.7	101.1
Spain	12.9	7.9	8.3	9.6	15.7
Korea	7.6	7.0		0.0	
Others	42.4	13.6	9.3	17.0	82.8
Total	**791.8**	**684.7**	**606.8**	**668.1**	**10.1**
All logs by species					
Species	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2003-04**
Okoume	1482.7	1233.2	1099.7	829.0	-24.6
Ozigo	24.8	9.9	10.8	19.7	82.3
S/total	**1507.5**	**1243.1**	**1110.5**	**848.7**	**-23.6**
Padouk	114.3	121.2	109.2	107.2	-1.8
Kevazingo	86.4	77.2	50.6	51.3	1.3
Moabi	72.9	54.5	54.2	62.4	15.2
Beli	46.6	48.9	34.6	30.1	-13.0
Agba	55.9	34.9	23.4	26.3	12.3
Azobe	38.0	33.3	29.8	32.8	10.0
Movingui	34.1	28.0	34.3	26.0	-24.2
Bahia	33.3	28.0	20.0	41.0	104.6
Douka	35.9	25.5	25.2	23.0	-8.7
Izombe	34.9	23.2	11.7	16.7	42.9
Bilinga	19.3	21.7	13.5	14.1	4.4
Tali	26.5	18.8	20.9	17.4	-16.7
Iroko	34.1	17.5	18.4	24.1	30.6
Ovengkol	16.2	15.6	16.4	15.2	-7.3
Sapelli	17.2	9.5	11.6	16.4	41.1
Acajou	13.5	9.2	17.8	18.6	4.4
Doussie	8.6	8.9	8.6	7.0	-18.9
Igaganga	13.4	8.4	9.5	7.8	-17.9
Okan	8.5	8.1	14.7	23.9	62.9
Niangon	10.5	6.1	6.5	5.5	-15.0
Andoung	1.7	1.7	3.2	6.2	91.7
Others	84.6	84.5	72.6	95.1	31.0
S/total	**806.5**	**684.7**	**606.8**	**668.1**	**10.1**
TOTAL	**2314.0**	**1927.8**	**1717.4**	**1516.8**	**-11.7**

Cameroon

Log exports continue to decline

Over the last five years, the timber sector in Cameroon has turned around completely as the number of species banned for export has progressively increased (see table). The ban on log exports has helped to boost the domestic processing industry, but supply issues have not allowed for an increase in sawn lumber production and exports.

Log exports down a further 26%

Today, less than 7% of exploited logs in the Cameroonian forest are exported without being processed and this figure is reducing each year. So much so that three quarters of the exports from the busy Port of Douala are actually logs from Congo and the Central African Republic. Having fallen by 13% from 2002 to 2003, log exports from Cameroon fell a further 26% during 2004, to a total volume of 141,129 m3. The principal log species exported from Cameroon are ayous and fraké, which together account for 84% of all exported logs. While the volume of ayous exported during 2004 remained stable, fraké exports were considerably reduced, due to uncompetitive pricing in export markets and subsequent weaker demand. After these two main species, come tali, eyong and lati, while all the rest represent less than 1% of the total volume exported.

Italy remained the principal importer of logs from Cameroon in 2004, taking more than 40% of the total, while France and Spain took 13,000 m3 and 8,000 m3 respectively. Exports to China account for a quarter of all log exports from Cameroon last year, with its new requirement for conditioning in containers. In effect, until 2003, containers represented less than 1% of exports, whereas today they account for nearly 16% of the total volume and all of it is destined for the Asian market.

Log supply limits lumber exports

Sawn lumber exports rose by 12% between 2002 and 2003, but dropped by 23% overall last year and were down to a volume of 685,000 m3. Despite the decline in log exports, there has not been a large increase in sawn lumber production. This reflects a decline in overall log supply in the country as efforts have been made to shift to more sustainable forestry practices. New regulations have imposed requirements for sustainable forest management plans and forced a reduction in annual exploitable forest area and an increase in felling diameters.

With 685,000 m3 of sawn lumber exported last year, Cameroon is still one of the leaders in processing in Africa. The main species are still ayous and sapelli, which represent nearly half of exports, even though they are being increasingly caught up by secondary species. Amongst the secondary species, the markets for doussié blanc (pachyloba) and iroko developed considerably during 2004. These two species, along with tali and azobé now represent more than 30% of the total volume exported.

Europe is still the largest consumer of sawn lumber, taking 80% of Cameroonian production last year. Spain and Italy are the principal importing countries. China is steadily increasing its imports and it is likely that even if it only exploits the Cameroonian market on species-by-species basis (e.g. ayous in 2002-2003), dramatic increases in imports may occur in the future.

Wood processing developing

As a result of heavy industrialisation in Cameroon and the growing difficulty in getting cutting permits, mills are increasingly diversifying by developing secondary and tertiary transformation. Unfortunately the statistics for these products are most likely distorted due to their transport in containers, which can be very difficult to quantify. However, the declared volumes show that nearly 23,000 m3 of plywood was exported by Cameroon in 2004. This was principally

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Camroon Log and Sawn Lumber Exports By Country
Volume (000s m3), Source SGS/Commerce International du Bois/ATIBT

	2003	2004	% var
Italy	64.3	57.5	-11
China	54.2	35.2	-35
France	17.9	13.0	-27
Spain	17.9	7.9	-56
Senegal	15.4	11.3	-27
Turkey	10.3	11.0	7
Portugal	3.1	1.4	-55
Germany	3.6	2.5	-31
Total Europe	**106.7**	**82.6**	**-23**
Total	**191.1**	**141.1**	**-26**
Sawn lumber			
Italy	199.3	162.3	-19
Netherlands	68.1	50.7	-26
Spain	232.3	137.0	-41
China	55.5	49.8	-10
France	81.2	58.2	-28
Belgium	49.1	43.1	-12
UK	33.0	21.3	-35
Senegal	15.0	16.6	11
Portugal	19.9	14.2	-29
Tunisia	13.0	6.0	-54
Germany	15.3	9.7	-37
Ireland	30.8	44.6	45
Turkey	6.0	5.1	-15
USA	15.7	16.5	5
Other	55.6	49.9	-10
Total Europe	**749.4**	**549.7**	**-27**
Total	**889.8**	**685.0**	**-23**

Cameroon Log and Sawn Lumber Exports By Species
Volume (000s m3), Source SGS/Commerce International du Bois/ATIBT

	2003 Logs	2004 Logs	% var Logs	2003 Sawn	2004 Sawn	% var Sawn
Species banned from export in log form on 1 July 1999						
Sapeli	0	0	n/a	205.6	143.1	-30
Iroko	0	0	n/a	75.2	96.4	28
Sipo	0	0	n/a	19.2	14.2	-26
Movingui	0	0	n/a	21.7	16.1	-26
Moabi	0	0	n/a	16.0	12.6	-21
Bibolo/Dibetou	0	0	n/a	13.1	10.4	-21
Padouk	0	0	n/a	6.6	5.8	-12
Doussie	0	0	n/a	10.0	38.0	280
Assamela/Afrormosia	0	0	n/a	13.0	7.5	-42
Bubinga	0	0	n/a	2.3	1.7	-26
Acajou/Ngollon	0	0	n/a	10.9	8.6	-21
Bosse	0	0	n/a	4.2	3.3	-21
Ceiba/Fromager	0	0	n/a	0.0	0.2	
Illomba	0	0	n/a	0.4	1.0	150
First Category Species*						
Ayous	85.8	80.9	-6	281.6	185.0	-34
Azobe	0.0	0.0		54.3	38.8	-29
Frake/Limba	70.9	33.5	-53	15.1	20.5	36
Tali	19.8	7.0	-65	55.4	39.4	-29
Bilinga	0.2	0.5	150	5.5	3.7	-33
Second Category Species*						
Eyong	5.8	9.7	67	0.3	0.2	-33
Ekop/Evene/Ekaba/Naga	0.1	0.7	600	0.0	0.0	
Agba/Tola	0.8	0.7	-13	0.5	1.6	220
Kossipo	2.2	0.9	-59	19.2	16.8	-13
Others	5.5	7.2	31	22.5	20.1	-11
Total	**191.1**	**141.1**	**-26**	**889.8**	**685.0**	**-23**

First category species may be exported in log form subject to a high rate of duty. Second category species may be exported in log form subject to a low rate of duty.

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consumed by Italy, the Congo and Senegal (30%, 19% and 17% respectively). Veneer exports declared for last year reached 50,000 m3 and the main species was ayous (80%), which was almost entirely destined for the Italian market.

Central African Republic

Slowing reduction in exports

While 2003 saw a 32% drop in the volume of exports of logs from CAR, down from 342,732m3 in 2002 to 231,758m3, the rate of decrease in exports slowed to 16% last year. Overall, 2004 exports of logs from CAR reached a volume of around 195,000 m3, while sawn lumber exports fell 12% to a volume of 44,000m3. The massive decline seen in 2003 was almost entirely due to the difficult political situation, starting with civil unrest in February of that year. At the same time, the entire forestry sector of CAR was taken over by the Department of Water and Forests, resulting in a period of confused administration, where irregular logging permits were issued and temporary restrictions on felling and exports were put in place. Urgent measures taken by the new forestry minister in April 2003 led to a large reduction in output, while the sector was tidied up and returned to state administration. In addition to the political changes felt by CAR's forestry sector in 2003, the production and export of forest products was also affected by economic and climatic factors. A wetter than usual rainy season hindered logging operations on a greater scale than in 2002, while the fall of the US dollar in the last quarter of 2003 led to reduced competitiveness of Central African wood in the franc zone.

Central African Republic Exports
000s m3 - source ATIBT

Exports by product - 2003/2004

	2003	2004	% chg 03-04
Logs	231.8	194.7	-16.0
Sawn lumber	49.9	43.8	-12.2

Exports by destination - 2004

Logs		Sawn lumber	
China	61.2	Spain	12.4
Italy	31.8	China	8.3
Spain	40.0	Belgium	7.7
France	21.2	United Kingdom	4.5
Germany	20.9	Germany	2.0
Portugal	11.9	Morocco	1.4
Turkey	6.3	France	1.3
Japan	3.1	Ireland	1.1
Finland	2.3	Italy	1.0
Others	5.0	Others	4.0
Total	**194.7**	**Total**	**43.8**

Exports by species - 2004

Logs		Sawn lumber	
Ayous	60.9	Sapelli	34.9
Sapelli	57.4	Iroko	5.9
Aniegre	24.1	Aniegre	0.7
Iroko	23.2	Sipo	0.7
Sipo	11.1	Acajou	0.5
Doussie	6.6	Kossipo	0.4
Others	6.4	Others	0.2
Total	**194.7**	**Total**	**43.4**

Cautious optimism for 2005

A premature comeback was forecast for 2004, as even though the requisition of the forestry sector by the government and the necessary scrutiny of logging enterprises was completed in 2003 and three new, and important, permits had been issued to new concessionaries, the US dollar remained weak. The result is that, although forests sector output was able to pick up in 2004, it still remained well below potential capacity. The government of CAR, however, remains positive for 2005 and predicts a return to productivity levels seen in 2002, due to increased company activity. Despite this, however, political problems and a lack of foreign investment in the sector may well keep production below capacity for the near future.

Congo Brazzaville

Forest sector development boosts exports

Having recovered from the impact of the introduction of a hard-hitting taxation system in early 2003, the wood industry in the Republic of Congo grew significantly through 2004 and exports of logs increased to 844,000 m3. This is an 18.5 % increase on 2003 and was matched by a 7.2% increase in sawn lumber exports, which grew to nearly 143,000 m3.

Exports of logs and sawn lumber have benefited from the opening of new concessions in Northern Congo and the activities in the region of Mayumbe, particularly in okoume extraction. At the same time, however, the production of sapele and sipo in the North of the country has been reduced in accordance with new management plans. As in Gabon, these new plans require companies to diversify their production and to reduce reliance on principal species.

Chinese imports of Congolese logs accounted for over half of total exports last year. China also imported a significant proportion of Congo's sawn lumber exports in 2004 and the majority of these was accounted for by sapele. The majority of the remaining Congolese log and sawn lumber production was destined for European customers. Last year, Congo's production of veneers declined by a substantial 40% to under 9,000 m3. This is especially relevant for okoume veneer and is the result of problems with mills in Pointe Noire.

Congo Republic (Brazzaville)
000s m3 - source ATIBT

Exports by destination - 2004

	Logs	Sawn lumber
China	445.1	15.0
Portugal	99.5	7.9
France	73.7	8.7
Spain	46.1	20.7
Cameroon	38.6	11.6
Italy	38.5	7.4
Switzerland	37.8	3.8
Germany	18.6	10.8
Turkey	13.7	0.8
Belgium	6.5	7.5
Greece	4.4	0.1
Algeria	4.1	0.0
Taiwan	3.9	0.0
UAE	3.7	0.1
South Africa	2.9	0.0
Others	6.9	48.2
Total	**844.0**	**142.6**

Exports by species - 2004

	Logs	Sawn lumber
Okoume	416.1	0.5
Sapelli	221.2	91.1
Sipo	42.8	9.5
Iroko	39.6	9.1
Bilinga	22.0	0.7
Bosse	15.4	4.3
Agba	13.2	2.5
Tiama	11.1	1.8
Longhi blanc	8.2	0.2
Wenge	4.4	2.0
Acajou	3.1	2.1
Afrormosia	5.0	0.0
Doussie rouge	4.7	0.1
Moabi	4.2	0.3
Aniegre	3.9	0.4
Padouk	3.8	0.5
Movingui	4.2	0.0
Dibetou	2.1	1.7
Bahia	2.8	0.4
Pao rose	2.3	0.0
Kossipo	1.2	1.2
Others	12.7	14.2
Total	**844.0**	**142.6**

Congo Republic (Brazzaville) - 000s m3 - source ATIBT

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% chg 03/04
Logs	211.4	293.8	396.1	640.5	712.3	844.0	18.5
Sawn lumber	61.9	63.5	94.7	127.4	133.0	142.6	7.2
Veneer	16.5	8.0	12.0	17.5	14.6	8.8	-39.7

Africa

Ghana

Increased exports of further processed products

Timber exports from Ghana continue to account for about 6% of the GDP and 11% of export earnings. Exports of wood products for 2004 stood at a little over 455,000 m^3, marking an increase of 2.4% on the previous year. Overall, Ghana's wood product exports were valued at around $232 million in 2004 and were up by about 4.5% on 2003. The increase in exports is marginal and it seems unlikely, therefore, that it can be attributed to any specific and long-term developments. Wood product exports from Ghana since 2000 appear to have stabilised at around the 450,000 m^3 mark. However, the product range continues to widen, with increasing value addition. In particular, Ghana is placing more secondary processed wood products, especially in laminates, onto the international market.

Sawn lumber exports from Ghana reached a volume of 210,000 m^3 in 2004, a 2.3% decrease from the previous year. In addition, plywood and rotary veneers experienced substantial decrease in export volumes, down 9.3% and 20.2% respectively. For rotary veneers, there was increasing competition from other supply areas such as Gabon and Cameroon. Meanwhile, exports of Ghanaian plywood always tend to be volatile as shippers struggle to compete against larger Far Eastern and Brazilian manufacturers.

In contrast, however, last year saw strong growth in the value-added product sector, particularly for mouldings, furniture parts and flooring. Increases in exports of flooring may reflect increasing demand and the shift to the use of wood flooring in Ghana's traditional markets, such as the European Union.

Exports to Europe declining

The EU remains as Ghana's principal export market, accounting for about 52% and 56% of volume and value respectively of overall wood product exports last year. However, when compared to the previous year, these figures show decreases of 2.0% and 1.8% in volume and value respectively. The share of Ghana's exports for which the EU has accounted has seen a gradual decline from an average of 60% since the 1990's. Both the increased demand for documentation to show sustainable forest management in Europe and increasing demand from neighbouring African markets are cited as major contributing factors to this decline.

Ghana likes to pride itself in its good forest practice. However, it has not as yet been able to attract investments into independent third party verification and this has delayed its ability to meet the growing market demand. A recent survey of mills in Ghana revealed that companies are very concerned by the added cost of certification, which is not reflected in the price of wood products being exported. A number of companies are beginning to participate in WWF Global Forest and Trade Network initiative with the hope that links with WWF Buyers Groups could result in price premiums for verified timber.

Political challenges

Meanwhile Ghana's national government has also faced a major political challenge to finalise issue of Timber Utilisation Contracts in the country. This process is designed to ensure that only the most efficient operators have access to Ghana's remaining forest resources, and to bring management of these resources on to a long term sustainable footing. But this process have proved extremely difficult, partly because the government has had to balance the immediate needs of rural communities dependent on the wood industry, with the longer term need to reduce timber production. It has also had to take into account the legal claims for compensation from existing operators likely to lose their licenses under the new system. These operators point to the significant investments they were required to make in rural infra-structure development in past years to gain their licenses.

Shifting the industry on to a sustainable footing and achieving recognition for this in international markets is likely to be one of the main challenges facing the Ghanaian timber industry in years to come.

Ghana's exports of wood products appear to have peaked at a total export earning of around $220 to $240 million. Any significant future changes may only result from increased exports of value-added products. But Ghana, like all other countries, faces mounting competition from China in markets for further processed products. Success in this business will increasingly be dependent on Ghana's ability to demonstrate that it can provide reliable and consistent supply of good quality products, and through development of long term relationships with distributors and manufacturers, particularly in the high value markets of Europe and North America. Recent reports from Ghana suggest there are some reasons for optimism, with a few suppliers now producing semi-finished components to very high standards.

China

Timber supply

In pursuit of certification

On the 1st January this year, China released its Sixth Forest Inventory Report (covering 1999-2003). It estimated China's forested area to be 175 million hectares, with the forest stocking volume at 12,456 million cubic metres. It also reported that forest coverage increased to 18.21% from 16.55% in 1998. China's forestry production policy is undergoing transformation and the focus has shifted from maximizing harvesting natural timber stands to furthering ecological preservation. During this process of change, plantations will replace natural forests as the major timber source in China.

Demand from European consumers for certified wood products is the primary driving force behind China's pursuit of forest certification and in response to this demand, it established the Forest Certification Division under the State Forestry Administration in 2001. Lack of market pressure led to a slow start, but last year, the situation changed, as greater numbers of European importers began requesting the use of certificated wood. China began to actively consider different schemes, including those advocated by the PEFC, FSC and SFI.

China will release its Draft Regulations on Forest Certification by the end of this year, but, as is so often the case, mutual recognition of other schemes will be the greatest hurdle. China is expected to incorporate FSC's principles and standards into its own scheme and, after strong promotion of FSC in the market, FSC certified forest in China reached 431,606 hectares in April this year. At the end of 2004, sixty-two wood product manufacturers had passed FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification.

Decreasing its reliance on imports?

In an attempt to reduce its reliance on imports, China's goal is to plant 13 million hectares of Fast-Growth-High-Yield (FGHY) forest by 2015. This would provide 133 million m^3 of timber. However, it seems highly unlikely that China will ever be able to reach this ambitious target, as the country does not have anywhere near 13 million hectares available for planting forests or any other commodity for that matter. For comparison, 13 million hectares would account for about 60 percent of China's total corn planted area (22 million hectares). There are large tracts of desert in Western China, but they are not suitable for FGHY forests, as there is not enough water for irrigation, and irrigating forests is not the optimal use of China's limited water resources.

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In addition to the issue of land area, China would need to plant roughly one million hectares of FGHY annually from 2002 to 2015 to meet its target. During the 2002-2004 period, actual plantings fell far short of that goal and less than 100,000 hectares were planted annually. Furthermore China's large-scale FGHY plantations need to overcome considerable ecological concerns. The economy's favourable investment environment has attracted large amounts of foreign direct investment from multinationals for pulp and paper processing facilities and this has spawned pulp plantations in Southern China, especially in Yunnan, Hainan, and Guangxi Provinces. Early this year, China's state-run media alleged that a major Indonesian paper manufacturer illegally logged natural forests in order to plant eucalyptus forests. Several NGO's highlighted the story as an example of how, in their view, monocultural plantations damage ecological diversity and these conflicting interests are now forcing the Chinese government to balance FGHY forest expansion with environmental protection.

The net result of this, is that any decrease in wood imports will be marginal and will have little impact on those countries supplying hardwoods for high quality end-uses, such as furniture production. Wood produced from China's FGHY forests will find its way into the pulp and paper sector, as well as into plywood cores and laminated flooring substrates.

Border trade gives Russia the edge

As of January this year, Russia replaced Indonesia as the most important hardwood lumber supplier (by volume) to China and the growth of these exports is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Russian hardwood imports manage to maintain their edge over other suppliers – notably the United States – by keeping costs down and this is helped by low road transportation charges and a system of preferential tax treatment. Despite the elimination of the "double rebate", announced by the Chinese government in June last year, market sources indicate that it continues unabated and that border trade is still able to benefit from half duty and half VAT. According to local customs statistics, roughly 90% of Russia's logs and 70% of its lumber enter China through border trade. The remaining 30% of Russian lumber is exported by ship directly to Southern China, primarily to the Changjiang Delta and Pearl River Delta, which are at the heart of China's furniture manufacturing region.

Temperate hardwood review

Globalisation shapes world's temperate sawn hardwood market

The annual UNECE Sawn Hardwood Market Analysis for 2004 highlights the effects of globalisation trends during the year and suggests these are accelerating in 2005. Progressive liberalisation of the wood products trade, improved communications, and relatively low transport costs on certain routes, is enabling processors to be more geographically flexible in their investments and trading. Expansion of the European Union to 25 countries also facilitates contact and trade in hardwood products. Hardwood secondary processing has continued to chase cheap labour around the world. Despite volatility in the value of the US dollar and the strengthening of the euro, exchange rates may probably played a less crucial role in 2004 than in some recent years.

The report suggests that consumption, or at least secondary processing, has generally continued to shift from the original EU-15 countries towards Eastern Europe; and from the US to Asia. European hardwood forest resources are now beginning to play a wider role in the world marketplace as the emphasis on temperate hardwood species continues and as demand for European oak has been strong. In Europe, oak now represents 50% of all hardwood flooring. Within the UNECE region, oak has come back into fashion and has dominated consumption, although red oak from North America is faring less well, as prices peaked in late 2004 and have continued to fall sharply through the first two quarters of 2005 as a direct reflection of declining US domestic demand.

The report suggests that apparent consumption of sawn hardwood in the UNECE region decreased overall by 3% in 2004 as compared with 2003, largely due to falling consumption by the United States furniture industry. Total sawn hardwood production in UNECE region is reported to have dropped by 3.6% to 44.1 million m3 in 2004, mainly due to a 10% decline in the US. The report suggests that European sawn lumber production actually increased by 5.7% in 2004, although this figure contradicts figures issued by the European Organisation of Sawmillers (EOS – see Hardwood Markets June 2005, page 11) which indicate that production remained broadly static. The UNECE report suggests that European sawn hardwood production increased in response to infrastructure investment in Eastern Europe and following increased harvests on both state and private forestland. The re-

▶12

Sawn hardwood balance in the UNECE Region
000 m3 - Source: UNECE/FAO TIMBER Database

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005e
Europe						
Production	15736	15565	15162	15348	16219	16283
Imports	9048	8655	8286	8148	8118	8368
Exports	5730	5317	5291	5285	5148	5138
Net trade	-3318	-3338	-2995	-2862	-2971	-3230
Apparent consumption	19055	18903	18158	18211	19190	19513
Of which EU-25						
Production	10454	10254	9805	9734	10390	10534
Imports	8626	8253	7871	7658	7573	7741
Exports	4102	3845	3897	3860	3722	3781
Net trade	-4524	-4408	-3975	-3798	-3851	-3960
Apparent consumption	14979	14661	13779	13532	14241	14494
CIS						
Production	4134	4153	3935	3648	3828	3908
Imports	220	193	117	135	137	142
Exports	609	687	766	865	986	973
Net trade	388	493	650	730	850	831
Apparent consumption	3745	3660	3285	2918	2979	3077
North America						
Production	31015	28328	29461	26729	24016	24010
Imports	2864	2463	2842	2999	3544	3562
Exports	4395	4176	4270	4113	4382	4389
Net trade	1531	1713	1428	1114	838	827
Apparent consumption	29484	26615	28033	25615	23178	23183

11◀

port notes that European sawn hardwood exports have fallen steadily since 2000, sliding further by 2.6% in 2004, as the increase in oak exports did not match the reduction in exports of beech.

Turkey largest European producer

Perhaps surprisingly, Turkey is identified by UNECE as the largest hardwood producer in Europe, producing 2.6 million m3 in 2004. With low sawn hardwood trade volumes, Turkey's production is for the domestic market, and is based on lower grade hardwoods, poplar plantations and imported logs. France, the second largest producer in Europe, is estimated to have produced 2.16 million m3 in 2004, up around 3% on the previous year. UNECE data shows significant increases in hardwood sawn lumber production in Germany and Romania during 2004. But this data cannot be reconciled with EOS data indicating that German production fell slightly in 2004, while Romanian production remained static.

UNECE figures indicate that total European exports of sawn hardwood have continued to fall steadily since 2000, with a further reduction of 2.6% in 2004 to 5.2 million m3. Non-EU countries accounted for almost 28% of all European exports in 2004. The largest exporter is Romania, with Germany, Latvia and France all close behind. German exports had their best year since 2000 and France had its worst export performance, in line with falling production.

Sawn hardwood production, exports and imports in the UNECE Region (000 m3)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Change Volume	Change %
PRODUCTION							
Europe	**15736**	**15565**	**15162**	**15348**	**16219**	**871**	**5.7**
Of which:							
Turkey	2410	2645	2564	2629	2590	-39	-1.5
France	2968	2804	2329	2099	2160	61	2.9
Romania	1319	1254	1432	1550	1780	230	14.8
Germany	1320	1242	1140	1071	1401	330	30.8
Latvia	580	645	848	868	1100	233	26.8
Spain	960	1055	843	920	1000	80	8.7
EU-25	**10454**	**10254**	**9805**	**9734**	**10390**	**656**	**6.7**
CIS	**4134**	**4153**	**3935**	**3648**	**3828**	**180**	**4.9**
Of which:							
Russian Federation	2540	2540	2309	2419	2600	181	7.5
Ukraine	957	898	877	909	909	0	0.0
Belarus	597	679	698	239	239	0	0.0
North America	**31015**	**28328**	**29461**	**26729**	**24016**	**-2713**	**-10.2**
Canada	1083	1094	1731	1760	1792	32	1.8
United States	29932	27234	27730	24969	22224	-2745	-11.0
EXPORTS							
Europe	**5730**	**5317**	**5291**	**5285**	**5148**	**-138**	**-2.6**
Of which:							
Romania	646	498	603	608	754	146	24.0
Germany	616	587	611	593	644	51	8.6
Latvia	442	494	568	626	555	-72	-11.5
France	661	580	593	528	511	-17	-3.2
Croatia	529	458	456	508	350	-158	-31.1
Lithuania	204	229	288	335	314	-21	-6.4
EU-25	**4102**	**3845**	**3897**	**3860**	**3722**	**-139**	**-3.6**
CIS	**609**	**687**	**766**	**865**	**986**	**121**	**14.0**
Of which							
Ukraine	92	204	251	355	462	107	30.0
Russian Federation	391	375	420	388	413	25	6.4
Belarus	112	87	64	58	58	0	0.0
North America	**4395**	**4176**	**4270**	**4113**	**4382**	**269**	**6.5**
Canada	1445	1293	1392	1374	1369	-5	-0.4
United States	2950	2883	2878	2739	3013	274	10.0
IMPORTS							
Europe	**9048**	**8655**	**8286**	**8148**	**8118**	**-29**	**-0.4**
Of which:							
Italy	2076	1837	1918	1724	1565	-158	-9.2
Spain	1124	1111	1040	1047	1067	20	1.9
United Kingdom	655	699	680	770	776	6	0.8
Germany	822	711	706	652	627	-25	-3.8
Netherlands	748	625	567	616	616	0	0.0
France	659	663	540	591	602	11	1.8
EU-25	**8626**	**8253**	**7871**	**7658**	**7573**	**-86**	**-1.1**
CIS	**220**	**193**	**117**	**135**	**137**	**1**	**1.1**
Of which							
Republic of Moldova	53	53	53	53	53	0	0.0
Ukraine	37	34	14	21	29	8	39.5
Kazakhstan	79	79	19	13	13	0	0.0
NorthAmerica	**2864**	**2463**	**2842**	**2999**	**3544**	**545**	**18.2**
Canada	1182	1038	1099	1126	1197	71	6.3
United States	1682	1425	1743	1873	2347	474	25.3

European import slide levels off

UNECE data indicates that European sawn hardwood imports have also declined since 2000, although this trend has levelled off over the last two years. The UNECE report notes that hardwood trade in 2000 was exceptionally high following the December 1999 windstorms in Europe which felled the equivalent of a year's harvest in two days, much of it high value hardwoods. The years since those storms, which resulted in 140 to 150 million m3 of damaged timber in France, have seen a continuing downward trend in sawn beech prices, aggravated by several other factors. Europe's furniture industry, which was a high consumer of beech, is suffering from rising imports of Asian furniture. Sawmillers have also lost much of their recently acquired sawn beech market in China, which now prefers to buy and process logs. Fashion cycles have not aided the beech market, as tropical and darker temperate species have made a degree of comeback.

UNECE figures suggest that total apparent consumption of rough sawn hardwood in all of Europe remained steady between 2000 and 2003, but increased slightly in 2004. The EU-25, on the other hand, has seen a gradually falling trend (albeit rising in 2004) due to the transfer of processing eastwards and as imports of semi-finished and component products into the EU have increased. One of the key market drivers in Europe has been hardwood flooring, which continued to grow steadily in 2004.

American production decreasing, while exports and imports rising

The US accounts for 53% of UNECE region sawn hardwood production. Following the peak of 31 million m3 in 2000, total sawn hardwood production in Canada and the US averaged 29.6 million m3 from 2000 to 2002, but fell 9.2% in 2003 and a further 10.2% in 2004. Since Canada accounted for only 7.5%, much of which is based on logs and green or unsorted sawnwood from the US, the main production fall has been from the US.

▶13

12◀

Exports of US sawn hardwoods are estimated to have risen by 4.8% in 2003 and by 10% in 2004, with China providing significant growth for both domestic consumption and exports of furniture. China's growing domestic economy, and government policy of allowing home ownership, have stimulated pent up demand, especially around major cities, for hardwood furniture, flooring and internal joinery, for which American hardwood species are suitable and increasingly preferred. The forthcoming Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008 are adding to this pressure. There are currently about 11,000 wood processing factories in southern China, many of which employ thousands of workers. China increased US hardwood imports by 39% to 419,431 m3 in 2004.

Meanwhile, the US policy to open trade with Vietnam is also affecting the sawn hardwood industry. Vietnam's wood processing manufacturing capabilities have been developed, in part assisted by investors from Taiwan. In 2004, Vietnam increased US hardwood imports by 95% to 49,799 m3 to supply its exploding furniture manufacturing capacity.

Rapid increase in US imports

US sawn hardwood imports rose quite noticeably in the last four years and by 25% in 2004. The major supplier was Canada, with tropical hardwoods from South America very significant, and with Germany emerging as a supplier of beech.

A major concern of the US hardwood industry has been the recent rapid rise of furniture imports into the US, affecting their domestic market balance. Reduced demand for high grade materials for furniture alters the economics for sawmills. They are producing increasing proportions of lower-grade and lower-value packaging and flooring material as log quality is reduced. But to remain profitable, sawmillers need to recover most costs on higher grade materials for joinery and furniture specifications.

CIS production continues to grow

The UNECE report also indicates that production of sawn hardwood in the CIS reached 3.8 million m3 in 2004, up 5% on 2003. Despite the increase, the CIS is still only a relatively small player in the region's sawn hardwood trade. Total CIS production accounts for less than 8% of production for the whole UNECE region. And around 75% of this production is used domestically. Imports of sawn hardwood into the CIS also appear to be insignificant and are often tropical for specific applications. Nevertheless, CIS is clearly having an important regional impact on the hardwood trade in East Asia, as Russia has emerged as the largest hardwood supplier to China (mainly logs).

China begins to control US market

The start of 2005 has already confirmed some of the trends that emerged in 2004. For example, imports of hardwood logs and sawn lumber by China are already showing signs of increasing, based on growing domestic demand and re-export of furniture and joinery products. Chinese import of US sawn hardwood was up a further 12% in volume in the first quarter. The current market is giving rise to uneasiness in some sectors. In the US construction sector, kitchen cabinet producers and flooring manufacturers were buoyant in 2004 although flooring production ended up at over-capacity, with commensurate falls in prices and profits reported by the 2005. This was partly due to a sudden rise in flooring imports (up 37% in 2004), which may signal another warning from Asia to American markets.

The reality of reduced furniture manufacturing in the US, and also in western Europe, is now regarded as a permanent element in the supply and demand equation. In 2004, according to press reports, 14,500 furniture factory workers lost their jobs when more than 50 US plants closed.

Cautious optimism for 2005

The UNECE Timber Committee forecast that production throughout the region may remain static during 2005, while apparent consumption may rise fractionally by 0.5%. However, this will depend on the current growth level of 2.2% in the construction industry (forecast at 2.1% in 2005) in Europe and housing starts in the US being maintained. The forecast may also depend on US production, which in turn will depend on fewer furniture factory losses and the continued performance of US exports.

EU nation 1st quarter 2005 import trade commentary (see data pages 14-15)

Netherlands

Dutch import data for the first quarter of 2005 bears the hallmarks of a weak and declining market, confirming anecdotal reports of very slow demand this year. Imports of tropical hardwood logs continued to decline, while tropical rough sawn lumber imports maintained the low levels of the previous year. Imports of rough sawn temperate hardwoods were also running at very low levels. There was a slight increase in imports of "planed, sanded and finger-jointed" tropical wood to offset some of the decline in rough sawn lumber imports. However imports of most other secondary products were also weak. Slow consumer consumption is indicated by a significant decline in imports of finished furniture. But, as elsewhere, China continued to make inroads into this section of the market.

Belgium

The short time span makes it difficult to detect any consistent trend in the Belgium hardwood market during the first quarter of 2005. Analysis of temperate hardwood log import data is also obscured by high volumes of low grade log imports from France for panel and paper manufacture. Imports of tropical and oak sawn lumber remained static on the previous year during the reporting period. Imports of beech sawn lumber were down. However there was a rise in imports of "other" high value hardwood species. Belgium's imports of sawn lumber from Brazil and Cameroon were up during the first quarter, but these gains were offset by a fall in imports from Malaysia and USA. There seems to have been a big switch from imports of hardwood plywood in favour of softwood plywood during the first quarter, notably from Brazil. Belgium's imports of finished wood furniture remained stable on the previous year.

Ireland

Ireland's imports of tropical sawn lumber were relatively strong in the first quarter of 2005, particularly from Cameroon which now supplies significant volumes of sapele to this market. As in the UK, imports of oak sawn lumber were fairly strong during the reporting period, although Ireland remains a small market overall for this product. Ireland is importing more hardwood mouldings, parquet panels, finished furniture and components. This trend implies increased pressure on domestic manufacturers. China stands out as a key supplier of all these products. China has also emerged as an important supplier of hardwood plywood to Ireland, taking market share from Brazil this year.

Sweden

Swedish mills import large quantities of low value birch logs from Russia and the Baltic States. This year there are signs of significant shift away from Latvian and Estonian supplies in favour of Russia. Sweden's large flooring manufatcuring sector is a significant importer of high value hardwood lumber. In the first quarter of 2005, imports of tropical and oak sawn lumber were quite strong, imports of sawn beech were stable, while imports of "other" sawn hardwoods were marginally weaker. With a large domestic wood industry, Sweden is not a big importer of secondary products. Imports of wood furniture were down in the opening quarter, with China taking share from Poland.

Netherlands imports Jan-Mar 2004 and 2005

Oak logs

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
BELGIUM	0.08	0.05	-40	0.89	1.44	62
GERMANY	0.07	0.13	99	0.38	0.32	-16
UKRAINE	0.09	0.00	-100	0.24	0.00	-100
FRANCE	0.00	0.17	na	0.00	0.48	na
LUXEM.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.02	0.04	94	0.07	0.18	144
TOTAL	**0.26**	**0.39**	**50**	**1.58**	**2.41**	**52**

Beech logs

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	0.12	0.05	-62	1.17	1.05	-11
LUXEM.	0.00	0.01	450	0.04	0.16	336
BELGIUM	0.01	0.01	0	0.13	0.19	47
BOSNIA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
CHINA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.01	na	0.00	0.05	na
TOTAL	**0.13**	**0.07**	**-45**	**1.34**	**1.44**	**8**

Birch logs

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	0.03	0.06	77	2.51	5.05	101
BELGIUM	0.00	0.01	na	0.00	0.24	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.03**	**0.06**	**100**	**2.51**	**5.29**	**110**

Poplar logs

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
BELGIUM	0.29	0.29	-2	7.15	6.86	-4
GERMANY	0.23	0.07	-70	4.48	1.61	-64
FRANCE	0.01	0.00	-100	0.02	0.00	-100
U.K.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.53**	**0.35**	**-34**	**11.65**	**8.46**	**-27**

Logs of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GABON	0.74	0.35	-53	3.20	1.55	-52
BELGIUM	0.61	0.40	-35	1.95	1.56	-20
BURMA	0.16	0.43	174	0.09	0.27	195
CAMEROON	0.14	0.11	-27	0.23	0.16	-33
VENEZUELA	0.01	0.00	-100	0.03	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.15	0.08	-47	0.34	0.11	-68
TOTAL	**1.80**	**1.36**	**-24**	**5.84**	**3.64**	**-38**

Other hardwood logs (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GUYANA	0.13	0.01	-92	0.60	0.05	-91
SURINAM	0.07	0.18	146	0.22	0.53	146
MALAYSIA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
BELGIUM	0.00	0.04	1900	0.00	0.10	5000
U.S.A.	0.02	0.01	-68	0.04	0.02	-51
OTHER	0.00	0.15	5033	0.00	0.89	29533
TOTAL	**0.22**	**0.39**	**74**	**0.86**	**1.60**	**86**

Sawn lumber of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
MALAYSIA	24.58	25.82	5	28.62	27.65	-3
CAMEROON	3.34	3.43	3	6.20	5.88	-5
BELGIUM	4.09	2.36	-42	5.26	2.42	-54
BRAZIL	1.96	2.71	39	5.86	7.11	21
GHANA	1.40	2.01	44	2.51	3.09	23
OTHER	3.84	6.49	69	5.55	8.05	45
TOTAL	**39.21**	**42.81**	**9**	**54.00**	**54.19**	**0**

Oak sawn lumber (high value) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	2.10	1.06	-50	4.24	1.76	-58
GERMANY	2.08	1.63	-22	3.69	2.15	-42
U.S.A.	1.35	1.50	11	1.64	1.64	0
BELGIUM	0.76	0.57	-25	0.72	0.48	-33
CROATIA	0.56	0.90	62	0.91	1.44	59
OTHER	1.38	1.11	-20	2.59	1.66	-36
TOTAL	**8.23**	**6.76**	**-18**	**13.79**	**9.14**	**-34**

Oak sawn lumber (low value) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
UKRAINE	1.26	0.94	-26	4.22	3.38	-20
CZECH R.	0.15	0.00	-100	0.47	0.00	-100
BRAZIL	0.01	0.00	-100	0.06	0.00	-100
BELARUS	0.01	0.01	0	0.02	0.02	-5
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**1.43**	**0.94**	**-34**	**4.77**	**3.40**	**-29**

Beech sawn lumber (high value) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
AUSTRIA	0.15	0.00	-100	0.19	0.00	-100
BOSNIA	0.05	0.03	-49	0.13	0.05	-64
FRANCE	0.03	0.02	-32	0.04	0.03	-37
POLAND	0.05	0.02	-69	0.12	0.02	-80
SERBIA	0.02	0.02	-29	0.04	0.02	-52
OTHER	0.18	0.11	-41	0.18	0.13	-27
TOTAL	**0.49**	**0.19**	**-62**	**0.71**	**0.25**	**-65**

Beech sawn lumber (low value) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	1.33	0.61	-54	5.83	1.79	-69
BELGIUM	0.30	0.00	-100	1.02	0.00	-100
LATVIA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
U.K.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
LUXEM.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.01	267	0.01	0.07	644
TOTAL	**1.63**	**0.62**	**-62**	**6.86**	**1.86**	**-73**

Other hardwood sawn lumber (high value) (b) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
U.S.A.	2.51	2.41	-4	2.02	1.82	-10
CANADA	1.29	2.14	66	0.86	1.38	62
BELGIUM	0.40	0.17	-57	0.43	0.18	-59
GERMANY	0.28	0.23	-17	0.24	0.25	7
ITALY	0.08	0.15	92	0.08	0.09	18
OTHER	0.57	0.74	31	0.78	1.07	36
TOTAL	**5.12**	**5.85**	**14**	**4.40**	**4.79**	**9**

Other hardwood sawn lumber (low value) (b) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
LATVIA	0.57	0.00	-100	3.75	0.00	-100
BELARUS	0.05	0.10	102	0.49	1.10	124
LITHUANIA	0.20	0.00	-100	1.48	0.00	-100
HUNGARY	0.25	0.00	-100	0.75	0.00	-100
UKRAINE	0.06	0.07	27	0.43	0.51	20
OTHER	0.14	0.07	-52	0.73	0.39	-47
TOTAL	**1.26**	**0.24**	**-81**	**7.61**	**2.00**	**-74**

Planed, sanded or finger-jointed lumber of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
MALAYSIA	4.78	4.41	-8	3.82	3.54	-7
CAMEROON	2.97	4.19	41	8.75	9.32	7
INDONESIA	2.39	4.11	72	2.48	4.14	67
BELGIUM	0.88	0.41	-53	0.90	0.50	-45
BRAZIL	0.02	0.06	139	0.03	0.07	176
OTHER	0.22	0.73	228	0.17	1.14	581
TOTAL	**11.26**	**13.91**	**24**	**16.14**	**18.70**	**16**

Other hardwood planed, sanded or finger-jointed (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
BRAZIL	0.17	0.08	-53	0.36	0.15	-58
FRANCE	0.35	0.31	-11	0.53	0.49	-9
S. AFRICA	0.22	0.16	-30	0.50	0.46	-8
SWEDEN	0.80	0.03	-96	1.76	0.09	-95
BELGIUM	0.24	0.12	-50	0.22	0.13	-43
OTHER	0.79	0.63	-21	1.11	0.40	-64
TOTAL	**2.57**	**1.32**	**-48**	**4.48**	**1.71**	**-62**

Veneer of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GABON	0.46	0.76	65	0.39	0.68	73
BELGIUM	0.17	0.18	3	0.09	0.12	30
THAILAND	0.00	0.43	na	0.00	0.04	na
GERMANY	0.18	0.31	69	0.05	0.11	106
TUNISIA	0.04	0.08	79	0.01	0.03	175
OTHER	0.07	0.14	93	0.04	0.13	205
TOTAL	**0.93**	**1.89**	**104**	**0.59**	**1.11**	**87**

Veneer of other hardwood species (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	0.62	0.77	24	0.15	0.20	31
BELGIUM	0.31	0.20	-36	0.16	0.13	-21
CHINA	0.29	0.08	-72	0.08	0.03	-57
UKRAINE	0.08	0.42	417	0.05	0.24	411
FRANCE	0.14	0.10	-34	0.04	0.03	-36
OTHER	0.33	0.26	-21	0.47	0.07	-86
TOTAL	**1.77**	**1.83**	**3**	**0.95**	**0.69**	**-27**

Hardwood mouldings

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
INDONESIA	9.09	9.08	0	12.96	12.53	-3
BRAZIL	5.97	5.43	-9	18.37	14.01	-24
BELGIUM	3.77	1.33	-65	3.64	0.65	-82
MALAYSIA	1.36	1.65	21	1.51	2.05	35
FRANCE	0.50	0.65	31	0.24	0.35	47
OTHER	5.05	4.03	-20	4.45	3.39	-24
TOTAL	**25.73**	**22.16**	**-14**	**41.17**	**32.97**	**-20**

Plywood of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	8.05	10.19	27	5.22	5.97	14
MOROCCO	6.01	3.77	-37	4.77	2.71	-43
BELGIUM	5.12	5.23	2	8.75	8.14	-7
CHINA	2.23	2.83	27	3.02	3.63	20
INDONESIA	1.14	2.40	111	2.14	2.87	34
OTHER	2.34	3.03	30	2.55	3.48	36
TOTAL	**24.88**	**27.44**	**10**	**26.46**	**26.79**	**1**

Plywood of other hardwood species (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FINLAND	6.21	5.76	-7	7.68	7.06	-8
RUSSIA	3.82	2.10	-45	8.53	4.18	-51
BELGIUM	2.82	1.21	-57	2.30	1.26	-45
LATVIA	1.43	0.04	-97	1.63	0.03	-98
UKRAINE	0.64	1.45	126	1.15	2.79	144
OTHER	3.05	3.03	-1	3.30	3.66	11
TOTAL	**17.98**	**13.59**	**-24**	**24.58**	**18.99**	**-23**

Softwood plywood

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FINLAND	9.93	9.46	-5	13.52	11.93	-12
FRANCE	1.82	1.92	5	2.06	1.64	-20
CHILE	1.83	1.59	-13	3.68	2.70	-27
BRAZIL	1.72	1.07	-38	4.38	1.93	-56
DENMARK	0.69	0.91	31	1.25	1.26	1
OTHER	4.16	2.84	-32	6.74	5.03	-25
TOTAL	**20.16**	**17.79**	**-12**	**31.62**	**24.49**	**-23**

Windows and frames of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	0.08	0.00	-100	0.01	0.00	-100
BELGIUM	0.08	0.00	-97	0.05	0.00	-96
INDONESIA	0.01	0.02	113	0.02	0.01	-47
CHINA	0.00	0.01	na	0.00	0.02	na
FRANCE	0.00	0.00	200	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.06	0.02	-65	0.02	0.03	59
TOTAL	**0.22**	**0.05**	**-76**	**0.10**	**0.05**	**-47**

Windows and frames of other hardwood species (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	0.27	0.03	-90	0.29	0.01	-98
FRANCE	0.13	0.06	-56	0.13	0.04	-65
HUNGARY	0.18	0.00	-100	0.09	0.00	-100
NORWAY	0.09	0.00	-100	0.01	0.00	-100
POLAND	0.08	0.00	-100	0.02	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.15	0.07	-55	0.06	0.03	-56
TOTAL	**0.90**	**0.15**	**-83**	**0.59**	**0.08**	**-87**

Doors and frames of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
INDONESIA	3.01	2.93	-3	1.76	1.82	3
CZECH R.	0.47	1.01	114	0.27	0.40	46
BELGIUM	0.19	0.19	0	0.15	0.08	-44
GERMANY	0.06	0.04	-39	0.01	0.01	-17
ROMANIA	0.04	0.05	25	0.03	0.02	-19
OTHER	0.03	0.02	-50	0.03	0.02	-41
TOTAL	**3.80**	**4.22**	**11**	**2.25**	**2.35**	**5**

Doors and frames of other hardwood species (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
BELGIUM	1.17	2.19	87	0.70	1.72	147
INDONESIA	1.38	1.68	22	1.00	1.35	36
CHINA	1.09	1.25	14	0.42	0.52	23
FRANCE	1.25	0.00	-100	1.34	0.00	-100
PORTUGAL	0.49	0.00	-100	0.20	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.72	1.22	68	0.35	0.68	94
TOTAL	**6.10**	**6.33**	**4**	**4.00**	**4.27**	**7**

Parquet panels (d)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	2.99	2.52	-16	3.93	3.16	-20
BELGIUM	1.76	0.98	-44	1.22	0.59	-52
CHINA	1.08	0.66	-39	0.53	0.46	-13
INDONESIA	0.52	0.71	36	0.33	0.39	18
LUXEM.	1.07	0.44	-59	1.74	0.69	-61
OTHER	2.50	2.78	11	1.31	1.77	35
TOTAL	**9.92**	**8.10**	**-18**	**9.05**	**7.04**	**-22**

Finished wood furniture (d)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	43.88	32.25	-26	15.30	10.41	-32
INDONESIA	23.74	36.26	53	9.60	10.82	13
BELGIUM	18.33	16.37	-11	3.78	3.92	4
POLAND	30.90	12.76	-59	11.46	5.56	-51
CHINA	13.46	19.40	44	6.82	9.43	38
OTHER	108.26	92.51	-15	50.43	40.94	-19
TOTAL	**238.57**	**209.56**	**-12**	**97.38**	**81.08**	**-17**

Wood furniture components (d)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	3.61	2.02	-44	1.68	0.59	-65
BELGIUM	1.15	0.85	-26	0.46	0.60	30
CHINA	0.76	0.55	-28	0.39	0.27	-31
INDONESIA	0.96	0.82	-15	0.70	0.72	3
U.K.	0.57	0.59	4	0.10	0.07	-25
OTHER	4.18	3.62	-13	2.12	2.13	0
TOTAL	**11.22**	**8.45**	**-25**	**5.43**	**4.38**	**-19**

Belgium imports Jan-Mar 2004 and 2005

Oak logs

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	3.44	2.92	-15	73.67	49.60	-33
GERMANY	0.21	0.43	106	5.33	6.01	13
NETHERLND.	0.24	0.29	20	1.47	1.05	-28
LUXEM.	0.07	0.06	-12	3.58	3.53	-2
ROMANIA	0.07	0.00	-100	0.11	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.26	0.17	-34	0.38	0.28	-27
TOTAL	**4.28**	**3.87**	**-10**	**84.54**	**60.47**	**-28**

Beech logs

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	4.56	4.01	-12	168.65	156.53	-7
GERMANY	0.67	0.54	-19	10.74	10.71	0
BELGIUM	0.00	0.01	400	0.00	0.05	na
LUXEM.	0.36	0.42	18	17.55	21.08	20
NETHERLND.	0.14	0.10	-31	0.74	0.40	-45
OTHER	0.02	0.10	426	0.07	0.21	197
TOTAL	**5.75**	**5.18**	**-10**	**197.75**	**188.98**	**-4**

Birch logs

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	0.36	0.46	28	16.49	19.18	16
GERMANY	0.13	0.19	38	4.95	5.78	17
NETHERLND.	0.04	0.16	290	1.57	4.37	178
LUXEM.	0.08	0.03	-63	3.22	1.11	-66
AUSTRIA	0.01	0.00	-100	0.22	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.00	0.00	-100	0.03	0.00	-100
TOTAL	**0.63**	**0.84**	**34**	**26.48**	**30.43**	**15**

Poplar logs

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
NETHERLND.	0.71	1.29	82	21.56	37.41	73
FRANCE	0.47	1.25	168	22.04	53.34	142
GERMANY	0.20	0.32	66	4.40	7.47	70
LUXEM.	0.02	0.06	168	1.10	3.15	187
SLOVAKIA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**1.39**	**2.91**	**110**	**49.10**	**101.37**	**106**

Logs of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
CONGO DR	0.45	1.39	211	0.52	2.60	396
CAMEROON	0.24	1.06	345	0.52	1.96	276
FRANCE	0.56	0.19	-66	2.48	0.29	-88
GABON	0.17	0.24	43	0.46	0.80	73
NETHERLND.	0.24	0.22	-5	0.43	1.09	152
OTHER	0.29	0.68	135	0.38	1.37	263
TOTAL	**1.94**	**3.79**	**95**	**4.80**	**8.11**	**69**

Other hardwood logs (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	0.83	0.88	6	26.34	23.25	-12
CONGO DR	0.03	0.30	1046	0.04	0.39	883
NETHERLND.	0.23	0.15	-37	5.45	2.72	-50
GERMANY	0.14	0.11	-17	1.50	1.38	-8
GABON	0.23	0.17	-25	0.97	0.44	-55
OTHER	0.36	0.09	-75	1.56	0.45	-71
TOTAL	**1.81**	**1.70**	**-6**	**35.87**	**28.63**	**-20**

Sawn lumber of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
MALAYSIA	14.46	11.07	-23	21.00	15.14	-28
CAMEROON	5.14	9.16	78	7.78	13.64	75
NETHERLND.	2.83	2.70	-4	4.56	4.05	-11
BRAZIL	1.50	2.15	44	3.22	4.48	39
FRANCE	1.87	1.96	5	2.65	2.79	6
OTHER	4.29	5.06	18	5.91	6.52	10
TOTAL	**30.09**	**32.10**	**7**	**45.13**	**46.62**	**3**

Oak sawn lumber (high value) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	5.03	5.23	4	8.22	9.32	13
U.S.A.	3.67	2.31	-37	4.76	2.87	-40
GERMANY	1.13	1.10	-3	1.77	1.60	-10
NETHERLND.	1.04	1.44	39	1.29	1.56	21
POLAND	0.76	1.13	49	1.16	1.64	42
OTHER	2.04	2.32	14	3.68	3.73	1
TOTAL	**13.66**	**13.53**	**-1**	**20.88**	**20.72**	**-1**

Oak sawn lumber (low value) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
AUSTRIA	0.05	0.00	-100	0.17	0.00	-100
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.05**	**0.00**	**-100**	**0.17**	**0.00**	**-100**

Beech sawn lumber (high value) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
NETHERLND.	0.27	0.18	-32	0.39	0.12	-68
SLOVENIA	0.25	0.16	-34	0.34	0.25	-26
ITALY	0.15	0.12	-16	0.24	0.21	-13
BOSNIA	0.15	0.14	-4	0.32	0.39	24
CROATIA	0.03	0.07	106	0.07	0.12	57
OTHER	0.28	0.14	-52	0.47	0.19	-60
TOTAL	**1.13**	**0.82**	**-28**	**1.84**	**1.29**	**-30**

Beech sawn lumber (low value) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	1.14	0.68	-40	3.46	2.48	-28
FRANCE	0.83	0.81	-2	3.47	3.53	2
CZECH R.	0.01	0.00	-100	0.02	0.00	-100
U.K.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.05	0.02	-61	0.19	0.08	-60
TOTAL	**2.03**	**1.51**	**-25**	**7.15**	**6.08**	**-15**

Other hardwood sawn lumber (high value) (b) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
BRAZIL	2.01	3.14	56	5.47	6.37	17
U.S.A.	1.37	1.18	-14	1.21	1.12	-8
CANADA	0.71	0.62	-12	0.74	0.65	-12
NETHERLND.	0.68	0.81	18	1.02	2.26	121
GERMANY	0.48	0.43	-9	1.06	0.80	-25
OTHER	0.73	1.12	54	1.54	2.16	40
TOTAL	**5.97**	**7.30**	**22**	**11.04**	**13.35**	**21**

Other hardwood sawn lumber (low value) (b) (c)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
LITHUANIA	1.88	0.22	-88	12.80	1.35	-89
LATVIA	0.94	0.27	-71	6.01	1.85	-69
UKRAINE	0.12	0.28	141	0.64	1.64	158
BELARUS	0.27	0.12	-56	2.21	1.02	-54
NETHERLND.	0.12	0.18	53	0.50	0.84	68
OTHER	0.29	0.19	-36	1.54	1.14	-26
TOTAL	**3.61**	**1.25**	**-65**	**23.69**	**7.84**	**-67**

Planed, sanded or finger-jointed lumber of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
NETHERLND.	0.60	0.66	9	0.75	0.79	5
MALAYSIA	0.33	0.50	49	0.27	0.40	47
INDONESIA	0.27	0.66	146	0.42	0.54	29
GERMANY	0.06	0.15	137	0.10	0.14	49
BURMA	0.17	0.06	-64	0.08	0.03	-60
OTHER	0.24	0.24	-1	0.24	0.20	-15
TOTAL	**1.67**	**2.25**	**35**	**1.86**	**2.11**	**13**

Other hardwood planed, sanded or finger-jointed (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
ITALY	0.35	0.28	-21	0.18	0.08	-56
NETHERLND.	0.23	0.54	134	0.23	1.28	457
GERMANY	0.21	0.21	2	0.22	0.60	169
FRANCE	0.08	0.14	72	0.10	0.16	57
CANADA	0.26	0.10	-63	0.14	0.06	-59
OTHER	0.74	0.41	-44	0.90	0.49	-46
TOTAL	**1.87**	**1.68**	**-10**	**1.78**	**2.67**	**50**

Veneer of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	0.33	0.53	62	0.17	0.24	37
SPAIN	0.57	0.67	19	0.24	0.23	-7
GABON	0.16	0.20	28	0.15	0.15	5
GERMANY	0.32	0.44	40	0.10	0.13	28
DENMARK	0.28	0.16	-43	0.02	0.01	-43
OTHER	0.65	1.11	71	0.63	0.59	-6
TOTAL	**2.29**	**3.11**	**36**	**1.31**	**1.35**	**3**

Veneer of other hardwood species (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
U.S.A.	2.32	2.01	-13	0.80	0.60	-25
GERMANY	1.13	1.24	9	0.34	0.45	34
FRANCE	0.75	1.01	36	0.49	0.43	-12
CROATIA	0.86	0.85	-1	0.22	0.24	11
GHANA	0.54	1.03	89	0.26	0.61	130
OTHER	2.80	2.94	5	1.35	1.22	-10
TOTAL	**8.39**	**9.06**	**8**	**3.45**	**3.54**	**3**

Hardwood mouldings

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
NDONESIA	8.53	8.15	-5	13.20	11.76	-11
NETHERLND.	3.41	3.41	0	1.55	1.81	17
FRANCE	3.19	2.18	-32	1.95	1.30	-33
BRAZIL	2.28	2.71	19	4.71	4.45	-5
GERMANY	1.42	1.47	3	0.99	0.85	-14
OTHER	7.66	8.63	13	5.52	5.62	2
TOTAL	**26.49**	**26.55**	**0**	**27.91**	**25.79**	**-8**

Plywood of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
INDONESIA	15.38	15.67	2	27.30	23.67	-13
GERMANY	0.53	1.49	181	0.70	1.06	51
NETHERLND.	2.02	2.10	4	2.63	2.06	-22
CHINA	2.14	1.45	-32	3.35	2.30	-31
FRANCE	0.67	0.76	14	0.46	0.48	5
OTHER	2.04	3.35	64	3.00	4.53	51
TOTAL	**22.77**	**24.82**	**9**	**37.44**	**34.09**	**-9**

Plywood of other hardwood species (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
BRAZIL	3.42	2.63	-23	7.19	4.61	-36
NETHERLND.	2.60	2.65	2	2.13	2.51	18
CHINA	0.64	3.71	480	1.22	5.72	371
GERMANY	1.27	1.48	17	1.58	1.73	10
FINLAND	0.77	0.80	3	0.66	0.66	-1
OTHER	1.55	3.41	121	2.57	4.52	76
TOTAL	**10.24**	**14.68**	**43**	**15.34**	**19.75**	**29**

Softwood plywood

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
BRAZIL	12.43	24.12	94	32.18	55.04	71
NETHERLND.	1.28	0.85	-34	1.84	1.21	-35
GERMANY	0.53	0.47	-12	0.96	0.83	-13
FINLAND	0.45	0.05	-89	0.54	0.05	-91
FRANCE	0.43	0.44	2	0.53	0.47	-11
OTHER	2.27	2.71	19	3.14	3.92	25
TOTAL	**17.39**	**28.63**	**65**	**39.18**	**61.51**	**57**

Windows and frames of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	0.68	0.83	23	0.04	0.05	42
BELGIUM	0.41	0.11	-74	0.03	0.01	-56
FRANCE	0.07	0.16	123	0.01	0.00	-43
TUNISIA	0.10	0.04	-64	0.01	0.00	-43
NETHERLND.	0.02	0.06	155	0.03	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.06	0.09	48	0.04	0.00	-97
TOTAL	**1.34**	**1.27**	**-5**	**0.14**	**0.07**	**-48**

Windows and frames of other hardwood species (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	0.32	0.58	79	0.03	0.02	-44
BELGIUM	0.25	0.27	5	0.03	0.03	23
ROMANIA	0.06	0.28	386	0.02	0.07	179
POLAND	0.19	0.01	-95	0.06	0.00	-100
NETHERLND.	0.18	0.01	-95	0.05	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.20	0.20	4	0.08	0.04	-51
TOTAL	**1.20**	**1.34**	**12**	**0.28**	**0.16**	**-44**

Doors and frames of Eurostat tropical species (a)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	0.50	0.32	-35	0.07	0.04	-37
CHINA	0.29	0.00	-100	0.21	0.00	-100
PHILIPPINES	0.40	0.03	-91	0.16	0.02	-89
FRANCE	0.19	0.15	-25	0.02	0.04	77
NETHERLND.	0.09	0.15	62	0.04	0.05	35
OTHER	0.08	0.23	181	0.03	0.11	307
TOTAL	**1.55**	**0.88**	**-43**	**0.53**	**0.27**	**-50**

Doors and frames of other hardwood species (b)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
ERMANY	1.69	1.94	15	0.36	0.38	3
CHINA	1.02	2.51	146	0.56	1.49	167
NETHERLND.	0.58	1.02	76	0.38	0.42	13
FRANCE	1.06	0.93	-12	1.14	0.50	-56
SPAIN	0.62	0.36	-43	0.23	0.22	-5
OTHER	1.23	1.88	53	0.50	0.86	71
TOTAL	**6.20**	**8.63**	**39**	**3.16**	**3.86**	**22**

Parquet panels (d)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
FRANCE	6.15	4.36	-29	2.87	1.92	-33
SPAIN	4.21	0.74	-82	2.84	0.50	-82
GERMANY	2.72	1.85	-32	1.85	0.65	-65
NETHERLND.	1.43	1.79	25	0.51	0.90	77
CHINA	0.70	3.80	444	0.47	1.88	302
OTHER	3.06	3.50	14	1.59	1.68	6
TOTAL	**18.28**	**16.03**	**-12**	**10.11**	**7.52**	**-26**

Finished wood furniture (d)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	46.73	43.54	-7	13.45	13.77	2
NETHERLND.	43.14	39.59	-8	11.91	11.61	-3
ITALY	39.26	40.03	2	5.49	5.54	1
FRANCE	25.20	24.30	-4	7.50	7.02	-6
POLAND	20.97	23.85	14	11.97	12.42	4
OTHER	86.57	89.27	3	36.95	38.60	4
TOTAL	**261.87**	**260.57**	**0**	**87.27**	**88.95**	**2**

Wood furniture components (d)

	Value mill. euro			Weight 000 tonnes		
	2004	2005	% chng	2004	2005	% chng
GERMANY	5.92	4.28	-28	3.35	2.94	-12
SWEDEN	3.87	3.53	-9	2.55	2.37	-7
ITALY	2.48	2.00	-19	0.96	0.95	-1
FRANCE	2.09	2.38	14	1.24	1.48	19
NETHERLND.	2.00	1.67	-17	0.87	0.88	2
OTHER	6.76	6.44	-5	3.94	4.17	6
TOTAL	**23.13**	**20.29**	**-12**	**12.90**	**12.78**	**-1**

(a) Eurostat identify around 100 species as "tropical". A full list can be downloaded at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2001/l_279/l_27920011023en03180328.pdf

(b) Species not identified as tropical are classed as "other" by Eurostat. Most are temperate but some tropical species are included.

(c) "High value" is taken to include all product averaging more than 350 euro/tonne, "Low value" is all product averaging less than 350 euro/tonne

(d) Includes both hardwood and softwood products.

Ireland imports Jan-Mar 2004 and 2005

Oak logs	Value mill. euro 2004	Value mill. euro 2005	Value % chng	Weight 000 tonnes 2004	Weight 000 tonnes 2005	Weight % chng
U.S.A.	1.06	0.79	-26	1.16	0.82	-30
U.K.	0.08	0.03	-58	0.07	0.04	-52
CANADA	0.00	0.11	na	0.00	0.08	na
GERMANY	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
ITALY	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.12	0.12	0	0.25	0.09	-65
TOTAL	**1.26**	**1.04**	**-17**	**1.48**	**1.02**	**-31**

Beech logs	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	0.06	0.02	-72	0.05	0.02	-62
FRANCE	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
ROMANIA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
BELGIUM	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
ITALY	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.02	0.00	-100	0.01	0.00	-100
TOTAL	**0.08**	**0.02**	**-79**	**0.06**	**0.02**	**-68**

Birch logs	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
CHINA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
U.S.A.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
CANADA	0.00	0.02	na	0.00	0.01	na
SWEDEN	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
LATVIA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.00**	**0.02**	**na**	**0.00**	**0.01**	**na**

Poplar logs	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.S.A.	0.02	0.00	-100	0.02	0.00	-100
CANADA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
U.K.	0.00	0.00	-50	0.00	0.00	-50
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.01	na	0.00	0.03	na
TOTAL	**0.02**	**0.02**	**-38**	**0.03**	**0.03**	**24**

Logs of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
IVORY C.	0.47	0.06	-87	0.36	0.08	-78
U.K.	0.27	0.29	7	0.17	0.20	16
FINLAND	0.25	0.22	-11	0.20	0.09	-56
BELGIUM	0.13	0.00	-100	0.13	0.00	-100
GHANA	0.04	0.06	40	0.04	0.05	16
OTHER	0.20	0.20	3	0.21	0.22	3
TOTAL	**1.36**	**0.84**	**-38**	**1.11**	**0.63**	**-43**

Other hardwood logs (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.S.A.	0.69	0.72	3	0.67	0.78	16
U.K.	0.55	0.66	21	0.51	0.38	-26
CANADA	0.24	0.29	19	0.19	0.19	-3
GHANA	0.18	0.19	4	0.18	0.15	-14
SWEDEN	0.08	0.05	-41	0.07	0.09	28
OTHER	0.30	0.34	14	0.31	0.42	35
TOTAL	**2.04**	**2.25**	**10**	**1.93**	**2.01**	**4**

Sawn lumber of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
CAMEROON	5.37	8.50	58	6.61	10.03	52
IVORY C.	1.06	1.59	50	0.88	1.42	62
GHANA	0.66	0.26	-61	0.57	0.22	-62
U.K.	0.38	0.12	-70	0.57	0.09	-84
CONGO R.	0.20	0.00	-100	0.27	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.33	0.30	-11	0.25	0.34	40
TOTAL	**8.01**	**10.77**	**34**	**9.15**	**12.10**	**32**

Oak sawn lumber (high value) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.S.A.	0.64	1.00	57	0.64	0.92	43
CHINA	0.20	0.30	54	0.14	0.23	67
U.K.	0.15	0.28	83	0.08	0.20	161
CANADA	0.03	0.17	400	0.01	0.09	550
FRANCE	0.00	0.08	na	0.00	0.06	na
OTHER	0.09	0.05	-42	0.08	0.04	-49
TOTAL	**1.11**	**1.88**	**70**	**0.95**	**1.53**	**62**

Oak sawn lumber (low value) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.00**	**0.00**	**na**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**na**

Beech sawn lumber (high value) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	0.36	0.14	-62	0.18	0.08	-56
CHINA	0.00	0.37	na	0.00	0.32	na
GERMANY	0.03	0.11	245	0.04	0.11	178
ITALY	0.12	0.03	-75	0.10	0.03	-75
CANADA	0.00	0.07	na	0.00	0.08	na
OTHER	0.07	0.09	35	0.07	0.12	76
TOTAL	**0.58**	**0.81**	**40**	**0.39**	**0.74**	**88**

Beech sawn lumber (low value) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.00**	**0.00**	**na**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**na**

Other hardwood sawn lumber (high value) (b) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.S.A.	0.56	0.53	-6	0.54	0.55	3
U.K.	0.32	0.52	62	0.41	0.30	-27
CANADA	0.22	0.20	-12	0.19	0.21	16
IVORY C.	0.13	0.11	-19	0.15	0.09	-38
CHINA	0.00	0.22	na	0.00	0.14	na
OTHER	0.12	0.32	158	0.13	0.29	119
TOTAL	**1.36**	**1.88**	**39**	**1.40**	**1.58**	**13**

Other hardwood sawn lumber (low value) (b) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
ROMANIA	0.00	0.01	na	0.00	0.02	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.00**	**0.01**	**na**	**0.00**	**0.02**	**na**

Planed, sanded or finger-jointed lumber of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	0.43	0.74	75	0.40	0.64	62
SWEDEN	0.18	0.25	37	0.21	0.29	33
BELGIUM	0.02	0.07	200	0.02	0.06	244
DENMARK	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
NETHERLND.	0.03	0.02	-38	0.03	0.02	-23
OTHER	0.04	0.15	256	0.02	0.12	539
TOTAL	**0.70**	**1.22**	**76**	**0.68**	**1.13**	**66**

Other hardwood planed, sanded or finger-jointed (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	0.35	0.76	117	0.22	0.44	100
U.S.A.	0.16	0.22	42	0.39	0.21	-47
CHINA	0.10	0.10	0	0.08	0.08	3
CANADA	0.08	0.03	-61	0.05	0.02	-60
TAIWAN	0.07	0.00	-100	0.03	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.10	0.07	-27	0.03	0.10	227
TOTAL	**0.85**	**1.18**	**39**	**0.80**	**0.84**	**6**

Veneer of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.S.A.	0.09	0.00	-100	0.05	0.00	-100
U.K.	0.02	0.03	94	0.01	0.02	91
BELGIUM	0.02	0.01	-40	0.01	0.01	-33
GERMANY	0.02	0.07	380	0.01	0.09	988
S. AFRICA	0.05	0.00	-100	0.07	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.02	0.01	-74	0.02	0.00	-100
TOTAL	**0.21**	**0.12**	**-40**	**0.16**	**0.11**	**-30**

Veneer of other hardwood species (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.S.A.	0.12	0.46	288	0.04	0.18	302
FRANCE	0.24	0.09	-64	0.09	0.03	-73
GERMANY	0.08	0.22	165	0.03	0.17	425
U.K.	0.08	0.14	82	0.03	0.07	106
SPAIN	0.00	0.04	na	0.00	0.02	na
OTHER	0.09	0.40	351	0.03	0.19	519
TOTAL	**0.61**	**1.35**	**123**	**0.23**	**0.65**	**180**

Hardwood mouldings	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
CHINA	4.06	5.05	25	2.97	3.56	20
U.K.	0.90	1.96	118	0.35	1.44	312
CANADA	0.75	0.69	-9	0.40	0.34	-16
NETHERLND.	0.45	0.42	-6	0.12	0.05	-56
U.S.A.	0.57	0.25	-56	0.38	0.08	-80
OTHER	1.72	1.60	-7	1.13	0.90	-20
TOTAL	**8.45**	**9.97**	**18**	**5.35**	**6.37**	**19**

Plywood of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
BRAZIL	2.59	1.10	-58	5.12	1.86	-64
U.K.	0.62	1.11	79	0.70	2.12	205
FINLAND	0.02	0.51	2218	0.01	1.08	13438
CHINA	0.00	2.55	84733	0.00	4.17	#####
BELGIUM	0.14	0.07	-52	0.13	0.07	-43
OTHER	0.21	0.24	15	0.16	0.19	21
TOTAL	**3.59**	**5.57**	**55**	**6.11**	**9.50**	**55**

Plywood of other hardwood species (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	0.57	0.48	-17	0.51	0.31	-40
BRAZIL	0.47	0.48	3	1.03	0.85	-17
GERMANY	0.06	0.28	359	0.05	0.24	344
NETHERLND.	0.03	0.26	867	0.01	0.13	942
BELGIUM	0.15	0.18	22	0.19	0.23	24
OTHER	0.35	0.50	43	0.35	0.49	40
TOTAL	**1.63**	**2.18**	**34**	**2.14**	**2.24**	**5**

Softwood plywood	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
BRAZIL	6.57	5.42	-17	15.02	11.49	-24
U.K.	1.25	1.73	38	0.89	1.14	28
SWEDEN	1.29	0.53	-59	1.14	0.46	-60
FINLAND	0.50	0.39	-23	0.40	0.28	-31
CHINA	0.00	0.00	-100	0.00	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.64	0.62	-3	0.65	0.63	-3
TOTAL	**10.25**	**8.69**	**-15**	**18.12**	**14.00**	**-23**

Windows and frames of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	1.12	0.17	-85	0.45	0.14	-69
POLAND	0.05	0.00	-100	0.02	0.00	-100
U.S.A.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
LITHUANIA	0.00	0.03	na	0.00	0.02	na
SWEDEN	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.01	0.00	-63	0.00	0.00	-100
TOTAL	**1.17**	**0.20**	**-83**	**0.48**	**0.16**	**-67**

Windows and frames of other hardwood species (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
DENMARK	1.52	1.24	-19	0.25	0.11	-54
U.S.A.	0.87	0.95	9	0.08	0.09	14
U.K.	0.08	0.24	210	0.01	0.05	350
LITHUANIA	0.03	0.01	-70	0.01	0.00	-80
POLAND	0.14	0.00	-100	0.03	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.06	0.03	-48	0.02	0.01	-33
TOTAL	**2.69**	**2.47**	**-8**	**0.39**	**0.26**	**-33**

Doors and frames of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	0.21	0.55	166	0.10	0.21	106
SPAIN	0.23	0.73	224	0.06	0.19	210
INDONESIA	0.09	0.25	180	0.05	0.11	124
BELGIUM	0.00	0.03	na	0.00	0.01	na
SINGAPORE	0.04	0.04	20	0.03	0.05	100
OTHER	0.00	0.02	1900	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.56**	**1.62**	**191**	**0.24**	**0.57**	**140**

Doors and frames of other hardwood species (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	4.72	2.60	-45	1.99	1.37	-31
BRAZIL	0.67	0.85	26	0.53	0.62	18
ITALY	1.14	0.25	-78	0.19	0.05	-72
SPAIN	0.28	0.19	-34	0.05	0.09	70
CHINA	0.32	0.63	101	0.28	0.53	90
OTHER	1.45	0.94	-35	0.39	0.47	21
TOTAL	**8.58**	**5.45**	**-36**	**3.42**	**3.13**	**-9**

Parquet panels (d)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
CHINA	0.91	2.45	168	0.65	1.93	197
U.K.	0.58	0.36	-37	0.40	0.23	-42
BELGIUM	0.33	0.49	48	0.05	0.07	46
SWITZ.	0.14	0.47	235	0.21	0.76	258
INDONESIA	0.34	0.37	10	0.23	0.19	-21
OTHER	1.41	0.72	-49	0.71	0.27	-62
TOTAL	**3.71**	**4.85**	**31**	**2.26**	**3.44**	**53**

Finished wood furniture (d)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	22.97	23.21	1	4.19	5.10	22
CHINA	3.83	6.71	75	1.33	2.73	106
ITALY	4.56	6.43	41	0.59	0.90	52
MALAYSIA	4.18	5.34	28	2.17	2.71	25
INDONESIA	3.71	2.43	-35	1.33	0.91	-32
OTHER	19.45	19.47	0	6.48	6.99	8
TOTAL	**58.70**	**63.58**	**8**	**16.08**	**19.34**	**20**

Wood furniture components (d)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.K.	0.71	1.12	57	0.22	0.33	52
ITALY	0.44	0.63	43	0.03	0.12	290
FRANCE	0.15	0.11	-28	0.04	0.02	-48
GERMANY	0.16	0.07	-54	0.07	0.02	-79
BELGIUM	0.07	0.09	26	0.08	0.04	-56
OTHER	0.22	0.37	70	0.09	0.20	131
TOTAL	**1.75**	**2.39**	**37**	**0.53**	**0.73**	**36**

(a) Eurostat identify around 100 species as "tropical". A full list can be downloaded at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2001/l_279/l_27920011023en03180328.pdf

(b) Species not identified as tropical are classed as "other" by Eurostat. Most are temperate but some tropical species are included.

Sweden imports Jan-Mar 2004 and 2005

Oak logs	Value mill. euro 2004	Value mill. euro 2005	Value % chng	Weight 000 tonnes 2004	Weight 000 tonnes 2005	Weight % chng
DENMARK	1.04	1.39	34	5.13	7.70	50
GERMANY	0.30	0.82	178	3.48	11.25	224
UKRAINE	0.42	0.32	-24	1.01	0.83	-18
POLAND	0.38	0.00	-100	0.59	0.00	-100
BELGIUM	0.08	0.08	3	0.73	0.68	-7
OTHER	0.11	0.10	-12	0.26	0.08	-71
TOTAL	**2.31**	**2.71**	**17**	**11.20**	**20.54**	**83**

Beech logs	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
GERMANY	3.42	3.46	1	63.60	68.46	8
POLAND	0.52	0.26	-50	12.35	3.99	-68
DENMARK	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
NORWAY	0.02	0.00	-100	0.03	0.00	-100
LATVIA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**3.96**	**3.72**	**-6**	**75.97**	**72.45**	**-5**

Birch logs	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
LATVIA	21.73	13.55	-38	514.41	285.32	-45
RUSSIA	4.12	8.49	106	98.80	186.99	89
ESTONIA	8.29	7.58	-9	201.62	165.01	-18
LITHUANIA	2.28	2.32	2	49.57	41.83	-16
BELARUS	0.00	0.27	na	0.00	4.63	na
OTHER	0.63	0.53	-17	10.27	11.29	10
TOTAL	**37.05**	**32.74**	**-12**	**874.68**	**695.07**	**-21**

Poplar logs	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.00**	**0.00**	**na**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**na**

Logs of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
BELGIUM	0.10	0.10	-2	0.09	0.03	-67
GERMANY	0.08	0.02	-68	0.21	0.06	-70
DENMARK	0.13	0.05	-66	0.08	0.04	-47
MALAYSIA	0.11	0.10	-10	0.07	0.05	-28
NETHERLND.	0.17	0.14	-19	0.24	0.15	-37
OTHER	0.09	0.08	-11	0.08	0.08	4
TOTAL	**0.68**	**0.48**	**-29**	**0.75**	**0.41**	**-45**

Other hardwood logs (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
LATVIA	0.84	4.58	446	26.64	107.50	303
RUSSIA	0.96	0.15	-85	36.27	2.84	-92
ESTONIA	0.76	0.15	-81	24.18	3.44	-86
GERMANY	0.28	0.11	-61	3.93	1.51	-62
LITHUANIA	0.18	0.00	-100	5.33	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.13	0.09	-30	0.90	1.03	15
TOTAL	**3.15**	**5.07**	**61**	**97.25**	**116.31**	**20**

Sawn lumber of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
GERMANY	0.47	0.49	5	0.56	0.82	45
MALAYSIA	0.16	0.15	-6	0.23	0.15	-32
NETHERLND.	0.17	0.15	-13	0.27	0.26	-4
BURMA	0.35	0.13	-64	0.17	0.04	-75
ECUADOR	0.00	0.14	na	0.00	0.04	na
OTHER	0.92	1.09	19	0.69	0.86	24
TOTAL	**2.07**	**2.15**	**4**	**1.92**	**2.16**	**13**

Oak sawn lumber (high value) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
U.S.A.	2.57	2.59	1	2.82	2.64	-6
POLAND	1.27	2.31	82	2.71	2.48	-8
HUNGARY	0.46	0.44	-4	0.83	0.81	-3
LITHUANIA	0.43	0.43	1	0.63	0.51	-19
ROMANIA	0.28	0.37	33	0.42	0.49	17
OTHER	1.14	2.94	158	1.57	4.00	155
TOTAL	**6.13**	**9.07**	**48**	**8.97**	**10.93**	**22**

Oak sawn lumber (low value) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
RUSSIA	0.04	0.00	-100	0.13	0.00	-100
LATVIA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.04**	**0.00**	**-100**	**0.13**	**0.00**	**-100**

Beech sawn lumber (high value) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
POLAND	0.99	0.65	-35	2.14	1.02	-53
GERMANY	0.52	1.27	146	0.60	3.24	442
SLOVAKIA	0.35	0.13	-61	0.61	0.32	-48
DENMARK	0.31	0.08	-75	0.37	0.10	-72
HUNGARY	0.34	0.08	-76	0.75	0.19	-75
OTHER	0.32	0.35	9	0.51	0.45	-11
TOTAL	**2.82**	**2.56**	**-9**	**4.98**	**5.31**	**7**

Beech sawn lumber (low value) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.00**	**0.00**	**na**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**na**

Other hardwood sawn lumber (high value) (b) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
CANADA	1.78	1.55	-13	1.19	1.10	-8
U.S.A.	1.99	1.55	-22	1.24	0.87	-30
LATVIA	0.64	0.57	-12	0.94	0.78	-17
ESTONIA	0.44	0.21	-52	0.73	0.31	-57
LITHUANIA	0.19	0.22	12	0.37	0.29	-24
OTHER	1.27	1.48	16	1.41	1.80	27
TOTAL	**6.31**	**5.57**	**-12**	**5.87**	**5.13**	**-13**

Other hardwood sawn lumber (low value) (b) (c)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.21	0.01	-97	0.64	0.02	-97
TOTAL	**0.21**	**0.01**	**-97**	**0.64**	**0.02**	**-97**

Planed, sanded or finger-jointed lumber of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
MALAYSIA	0.02	0.04	50	0.04	0.05	36
INDONESIA	0.09	0.10	16	0.13	0.05	-60
IVORY C.	0.02	0.06	215	0.01	0.04	177
SINGAPORE	0.02	0.10	444	0.02	0.09	384
GERMANY	0.01	0.02	88	0.01	0.01	33
OTHER	0.04	0.02	-56	0.03	0.01	-75
TOTAL	**0.20**	**0.33**	**66**	**0.23**	**0.25**	**6**

Other hardwood planed, sanded or finger-jointed (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
POLAND	0.23	1.37	486	0.13	0.69	426
DENMARK	0.73	0.23	-68	0.87	0.36	-58
GERMANY	0.04	0.30	692	0.07	0.36	445
CROATIA	0.07	0.04	-49	0.07	0.02	-77
SERBIA	0.14	0.00	-100	0.22	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.38	0.34	-10	0.44	0.26	-41
TOTAL	**1.58**	**2.27**	**44**	**1.79**	**1.68**	**-6**

Veneer of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
DENMARK	0.42	0.44	3	0.14	0.10	-25
GERMANY	0.33	0.21	-36	0.09	0.09	-1
FRANCE	0.10	0.07	-29	0.05	0.04	-28
U.K.	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
THAILAND	0.01	0.16	2517	0.00	0.02	na
OTHER	0.21	0.46	115	0.08	0.41	413
TOTAL	**1.07**	**1.33**	**25**	**0.36**	**0.66**	**83**

Veneer of other hardwood species (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
POLAND	1.54	1.05	-32	0.84	0.24	-72
FINLAND	1.04	1.00	-4	0.38	0.41	8
CROATIA	0.63	0.95	50	0.21	0.22	5
SLOVAKIA	0.75	0.46	-39	0.18	0.10	-45
GERMANY	0.77	0.45	-42	0.23	0.12	-47
OTHER	1.55	1.82	17	0.66	0.76	15
TOTAL	**6.28**	**5.71**	**-9**	**2.50**	**1.85**	**-26**

Hardwood mouldings	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
POLAND	1.93	1.03	-46	1.22	0.47	-61
GERMANY	0.45	0.53	19	0.21	0.20	-6
DENMARK	0.25	0.50	97	0.09	0.14	57
FINLAND	0.17	0.13	-24	0.05	0.03	-49
U.S.A.	0.92	0.12	-87	0.36	0.02	-94
OTHER	1.01	1.51	49	0.84	0.84	0
TOTAL	**4.73**	**3.82**	**-19**	**2.78**	**1.71**	**-39**

Plywood of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
NETHERLND.	0.28	0.36	32	0.07	0.09	32
GERMANY	0.28	0.27	-1	0.15	0.14	-5
INDONESIA	0.13	0.13	0	0.19	0.15	-21
CHINA	0.00	0.05	na	0.00	0.07	na
BELGIUM	0.04	0.01	-70	0.02	0.01	-42
OTHER	0.15	0.11	-22	0.20	0.07	-67
TOTAL	**0.87**	**0.94**	**8**	**0.61**	**0.51**	**-16**

Plywood of other hardwood species (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
FINLAND	2.94	3.30	12	2.39	2.57	7
RUSSIA	1.95	1.50	-23	5.02	3.09	-38
LATVIA	0.93	1.53	64	1.13	1.68	49
GERMANY	0.70	0.80	15	0.67	0.54	-19
BELGIUM	0.57	0.28	-51	0.52	0.23	-56
OTHER	1.36	2.09	53	3.36	2.12	-37
TOTAL	**8.46**	**9.50**	**12**	**13.09**	**10.24**	**-22**

Softwood plywood	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
FINLAND	6.36	8.96	41	7.66	10.29	34
POLAND	1.05	1.56	49	0.93	2.04	119
DENMARK	0.72	0.69	-4	1.42	1.55	9
NORWAY	0.79	0.76	-4	0.31	0.29	-7
RUSSIA	0.60	0.21	-66	1.33	0.38	-71
OTHER	0.82	1.64	101	1.35	2.84	110
TOTAL	**10.34**	**13.83**	**34**	**13.01**	**17.39**	**34**

Windows and frames of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
FINLAND	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
NORWAY	0.01	0.00	-100	0.00	0.00	-100
CHINA	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
DENMARK	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
…	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.01**	**0.00**	**-100**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**-100**

Windows and frames of other hardwood species (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
ESTONIA	0.03	0.17	467	0.01	0.08	971
POLAND	0.26	0.00	-100	0.06	0.00	-100
NORWAY	0.05	0.02	-49	0.01	0.01	-38
FINLAND	0.00	0.00	-100	0.00	0.00	-100
LITHUANIA	0.02	0.00	-100	0.01	0.00	-100
OTHER	0.02	0.01	-45	0.01	0.00	-33
TOTAL	**0.38**	**0.21**	**-46**	**0.09**	**0.08**	**-3**

Doors and frames of Eurostat tropical species (a)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
FINLAND	0.38	0.26	-31	0.08	0.08	12
ESTONIA	0.00	0.14	na	0.00	0.06	na
MALAYSIA	0.01	0.00	-79	0.00	0.00	-75
GERMANY	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
NORWAY	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
OTHER	0.00	0.00	na	0.00	0.00	na
TOTAL	**0.40**	**0.40**	**1**	**0.08**	**0.15**	**86**

Doors and frames of other hardwood species (b)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
LATVIA	0.02	0.22	1094	0.01	0.26	2778
FINLAND	0.02	0.20	805	0.00	0.06	1500
NORWAY	0.21	0.18	-15	0.06	0.05	-22
POLAND	0.13	0.13	4	0.03	0.03	0
U.K.	0.09	0.13	52	0.10	0.15	50
OTHER	0.24	0.42	73	0.08	0.23	178
TOTAL	**0.71**	**1.28**	**80**	**0.29**	**0.78**	**172**

Parquet panels (d)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
NORWAY	7.26	7.62	5	2.85	3.19	12
GERMANY	1.65	1.09	-34	0.65	0.45	-30
POLAND	1.69	1.14	-33	0.90	0.82	-9
DENMARK	0.54	0.99	85	0.20	0.33	62
MALAYSIA	0.57	0.73	29	0.34	0.35	3
OTHER	2.67	3.86	44	1.46	2.50	71
TOTAL	**14.37**	**15.41**	**7**	**6.41**	**7.64**	**19**

Finished wood furniture (d)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
POLAND	29.91	23.67	-21	12.44	12.96	4
DENMARK	21.91	21.91	0	12.19	13.00	7
CHINA	9.78	13.78	41	4.65	5.95	28
LITHUANIA	12.14	8.63	-29	7.60	6.82	-10
FINLAND	7.46	6.57	-12	1.53	1.44	-6
OTHER	56.14	53.27	-5	23.86	24.88	4
TOTAL	**137.34**	**127.84**	**-7**	**62.27**	**65.06**	**4**

Wood furniture components (d)	Value 2004	Value 2005	Value % chng	Weight 2004	Weight 2005	Weight % chng
ITALY	2.37	3.10	31	0.72	1.11	54
AUSTRIA	3.26	3.98	22	1.72	1.98	15
DENMARK	2.88	2.45	-15	0.97	1.11	15
POLAND	1.63	1.22	-25	1.09	1.09	0
ESTONIA	1.52	1.58	3	0.97	0.82	-15
OTHER	8.79	12.38	41	7.60	9.90	30
TOTAL	**20.46**	**24.70**	**21**	**13.07**	**16.02**	**23**

(c) "High value" is taken to include all product averaging more than 350 euro/tonne, "Low value" is all product averaging less than 350 euro/tonne

(d) Includes both hardwood and softwood products.

It is summer time in Europe and many traders are on vacation. Therefore the August edition is devoted to a review of trade statistics with a focus on the tropics. Here are some highlights.

Tropical hardwood review

Drawing on ITTO data and other sources, our overview of the international tropical hardwood trade during 2004 suggests:

■Overall, tropical hardwood log production amongst ITTO members fell slightly from roughly 135 million m3 in 2003 to 134 million m3 in 2004. While log production in Africa and Southeast Asia was down by 9% and 6% respectively in 2004, this was offset by a significant increase in log production in Brazil. Overall trade in tropical hardwood logs remains in continual decline, with further emphasis on domestic processing in Southeast Asian and African supplier countries. **Pages 1, 2, 3**

■Overall tropical sawn lumber production is estimated to have grown to around 40 million m3 in 2004. The jump in production is mainly accounted for by Brazil in line with revised estimates for log production and sawn lumber exports. There was also a significant increase in sawn lumber production in Malaysia last year, which rose to 5.6 million m3 from 4.6 million m3 in 2003. **Page 4**

■ Production of hardwood plywood amongst ITTO's producer countries rose to 13.6 million m3 in 2004, after having fallen to around 13 million m3 in the previous year. In the Asia-Pacific region, production fell in Indonesia, while Malaysian production increased by 11% to around 4.8 million m3. Hardwood plywood production is estimated to have increased in Brazil - in line with overall increased production of forest products – and in both Colombia and Ecuador. African production of plywood remained almost unchanged. **Page 5**

■ Production of tropical veneer in ITTO producing countries reached a volume of 2.3 million m3 in 2004, down slightly on the previous year. Malaysia, the world's largest tropical hardwood veneer producer, stepped up production in 2004 by 26% to around 679,000 m3. Tropical veneer production in Brazil and the other Latin American producing countries is estimated by ITTO to have remained unchanged in 2004, while in Africa a significant decrease was seen in production by Ivory Coast, where political problems consistently dog the forest products sector. Meanwhile in Gabon, veneer production rose from 110,000 m3 in 2003 to 140,000 m3 in 2004, reflecting increasing investment in the countries wood processing sector. **Page 6**

Temperate hardwood review

The annual UNECE Sawn Hardwood Market Analysis for 2004 highlights the effects of globalisation trends during the year and suggests these are accelerating in 2005. Progressive liberalisation of the wood products trade, improved communications, and low transport costs on certain routes, is enabling processors to be more geographically flexible in their investments and trading. Expansion of the EU to 25 countries also facilitates contact and trade in hardwood products. Hardwood secondary processing has continued to chase cheap labour around the world. Despite volatility in the value of the US dollar and the strengthening of the euro, exchange rates played a less crucial role in 2004 than in recent years. **Pages 10, 11, 12**

Gabon

Log exports from Gabon continue to fall by around 10-15% per year and in 2004, exports fell by 11.7% to a volume of 1.5 million m3. One reason is a new obligation on concessionaires to introduce sustainable management plans which, amongst other things, require a reduction in exports of the principal species and development of domestic capacity, particularly for okoume veneer and sawn lumber production. **Page 7**

Cameroon

Over the last five years, the timber sector in Cameroon has turned around completely as the number of species banned for export has progressively increased. The ban on log exports has helped to boost the domestic processing industry, but log supply issues have not allowed for an increase in sawn lumber production and exports. **Page 8**

Ghana

Timber exports from Ghana continue to account for about 6% of the GDP and 11% of export earnings. Exports of wood products for 2004 stood at a little over 455,000 m^3, marking an increase of 2.4% on the previous year. Overall, Ghana's wood product exports were valued at around $232 million in 2004 and were up by about 4.5% on 2003. Meanwhile Ghana's national government faces a major political challenge to finalise issue of Timber Utilisation Contracts in the country with the objective of bringing the industry on to a long term sustainable footing. **Page 10**

Congo-Brazzaville

Having recovered from the impact of the introduction of a hard-hitting taxation system in early 2003, the wood industry in the Republic of Congo grew significantly through 2004 and exports of logs increased to 844,000 m3. This is an 18.5 % increase on 2003 and was matched by a 7.2% increase in sawn lumber exports, which grew to nearly 143,000 m3. **Page 9**

Central African Republic

While 2003 saw a 32% drop in the volume of exports of logs from CAR, down from 342,732m3 in 2002 to 231,758m3, the rate of decrease in exports slowed to 16% last year. Overall, 2004 exports of logs from CAR reached a volume of around 195,000 m3, while sawn lumber exports fell 12% to a volume of 44,000m3. **Page 9**

China

China's forestry production policy is undergoing transformation and the focus has shifted from maximizing harvesting natural timber stands to furthering ecological preservation. During this process of change, plantations will replace natural forests as the major timber source in China. However supply from plantations is very unlikely to have any significant impact on demand for imported hardwoods. **Pages 10,11**

For our tropical hardwood and temperate hardwood review we are indebted to ATIBT, ITTO and the UNECE Timber Committee for large quantities of trade data and for their perceptive analysis.