



Mississippi State University Extension Service

Coordinated Access to the Research and Extension System

Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

Box 9681
Mississippi State, MS 39762

September/October, 2003

MISSISSIPPI TIMBER PRICE REPORT

1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

The Mississippi Timber Price Report is a bimonthly survey of stumpage and delivered timber prices in Mississippi. It is developed through the cooperation of public and private members of the forestry sector with the Mississippi State University Extension Service to provide an accurate picture of timber market activity. Mississippi is divided into four market regions that reflect distinct timber markets within the state (see map) and average prices for common forest products are listed. These values are compiled by polling cooperators from forest industry, public agencies, consulting foresters and landowners.

2. HOW TO USE THIS REPORT.

This report is intended to give a profile of timber prices in Mississippi.

Values given are offered as a guide to help individuals assess the fair-market value of their timber. The average price for a region should NOT be applied as the exact value for a particular timber tract. The best way for private landowners to obtain the highest price for a particular tract is to use competitive bidding. These prices, however, do reflect current timber market activity in each region.

Certain factors may cause a particular tract of timber to be valued higher or lower. For example, a tract that has a high timber volume per acre and can be logged during wet weather may bring a price per unit higher than the average reported here. On the other hand, a tract with less volume at great distance from the buyer's mill may bring less. Additional factors that affect timber values are timber quality, tract size, type of product to be made from the timber, access to the tract and many others. These values are a good price reference for landowners who wish to market timber, but individuals are advised to have their timber evaluated by a professional forester before making a timber sale.

3. TIMBER MARKET COMMENTS

Sawtimber

Interest in the timber market remained active in September/October on the strength of strong softwood lumber sales through August. But, the unusually wet weather in 2004 has kept

the interest focused on “wet weather” tracts with good quality sawtimber – especially pine - even in the normal dry season.

Log supply remained an issue throughout the state as contractors took advantage of drier spells to harvest tracts that had already been purchased before contracts ran out. As indicated by timber severance tax collections harvest volumes appear to be about 4 percent low for the year primarily due to weather..

The strong housing market continued to strengthen lumber and plywood markets. In addition, an \$11 million purchase of softwood lumber and plywood by the US Government in August for Iraq and Afghanistan reconstruction also helped improve the market.

One report from south Mississippi had a standing price of \$250/MBF,D for spruce pine, while another from central Mississippi was \$290/MBF,D

In the hardwood market, log supply problems related to weather helped to reduce lumber inventories and prices eased higher all year long. Red oak lumber sales were reported strong to cabinet plants and strip flooring manufacturers. Sales of other hardwood species were also reported picking up. Mills that had taken down time because of weather-related log supply problems were getting back to normal production in many areas.

Pulpwood

Wet weather always helps the pulpwood market and this year has been no exception. But the loss of 2 paper mills in the past 3 years has taken much of the steam out of the pulpwood markets in Mississippi. Foresters continued commenting that first thinning operations in pine plantations remain a challenge in many areas due to weak pulpwood markets. Standing pine pulpwood averages ranged between \$6 - \$8/ton and hardwood remained between \$5 - \$6.50/ton.

Other Comments

The pole market in south Mississippi was active with several sales reported and standing prices for pine poles ranged up into the mid \$600s.

The Mississippi Timber Price Report is available on the World Wide Web. The current issue can be accessed through the Mississippi State University Extension Service Homepage. The Extension website has had a facelift and been combined with the MAFES site. The new site is at www.msucares.com>. Select “Forestry” from the left hand index and then select “Timber Price Reports” to find the Mississippi Timber Price Report on line. Individual price reports are available dating back to 1997. Other data will be added periodically.

Anyone can get copies of the Mississippi Timber Price Report from the local Extension office. For the latest timber prices, call your County Extension Office or to get on the mailing list, contact Extension Forestry at Box 9681, Mississippi State, MS 39762

As always, your comments, pro and con are welcome.

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DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE TIMBER MARKET COMMENTS!

STANDING TIMBER¹

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	380-415	392	385-435	419	335-427	416	369-440	393
Chip-n-saw pine	65-80	75	65-84	78	61-83	72	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	500-760	646	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	165-200	172	130-188	149	150-180	166	135-187	170
Oak sawtimber	300-366	341.50	250-444	330	260-328	306	342-410	370
Soft hardwood sawtimber ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rare hardwood sawtimber ⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	17-26	19	18.50-25	20	15-27	18	14-20	16
Hardwood pulpwood	14-28	18	14-24	17	13-22	16	11-17	14

DELIVERED PRICES⁵

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	470-495	480	485-520	495	475-505	490	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	-	-	90-104	96	89-105	98	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	274-295	284	235-280	260	245-290	259	230-280	265
Oak sawtimber	330-400	392	360-420	394	345-400	366	365-450	430
Other hardwood sawtimber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	39-60	54	40-55	51	33-55	47	38-51	46
Hardwood pulpwood	31-52	44	37-51	45	38-56	48	34-48	43

¹Prices reported are for timber market transactions during the two-month period listed, sawtimber and standing pole prices in \$/MBF Doyle, chip-n-saw and pulpwood prices in \$/cord, delivered pine poles in \$/ton.

²"Mixed Hardwoods" are mostly: Low-grade Oak, Beech, Cottonwood, Willow, Elm, Gums, Locust, Hackberry, Magnolia, Pecan, Hickory, Sycamore, Tupelo and Birch.

³"Soft Hardwoods" are mostly: Cottonwood, Willow, Poplar and Gum.

⁴"Rare Hardwoods" are mostly: Walnut, Cherry, Royal Paulownia, Persimmon, some species and grades of Cypress, certain prime grades of Cherrybark and White Oaks.

⁵Delivered prices are values given at the sawmill or pulpwood yard gate.

Mississippi weight conversion factors for shortwood pulpwood by law are: pine = 2.6 tons/cord. ; mixed hardwood = 2.8 tons/cord.

There is no statutory weight conversion for sawlogs in Mississippi. Pine sawlog weight to lumber volume conversions vary by log diameter and range from 6.5 tons of logs/MBF of lumber to 12 or 13 tons/MBF. Most mills in Mississippi use weight conversion factors of 8 to 10 tons/MBF for southern pine. For hardwood logs (comprised mostly of oak and hickory), most mills use a conversion factor between 9 and 11 tons of logs/MBF of lumber. A mill's conversion factor will also vary according to the equipment configuration in the mill.

*Only one price reported.

**See Timber Market Comments.

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