



Mississippi Timber Price Report

Department of Agricultural Economics • Department of Forestry

Box 9681
Mississippi State, MS 39762

November/December, 1999

MISSISSIPPI TIMBER PRICE REPORT

1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

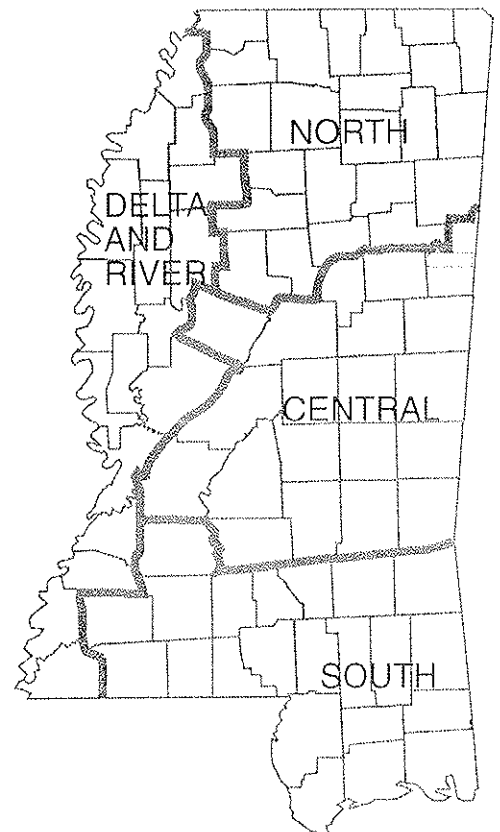
The Mississippi Timber Price Report is a bimonthly survey of stumpage and delivered timber prices in Mississippi. It is developed through the cooperation of public and private members of the forestry sector with the Mississippi State University Extension Service to provide an accurate picture of timber 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

Dry conditions meant good log availability for mills during November/December, but a burst of sales late in the year put more activity in the market than expected. On average, prices declined slightly, but the higher activity level in the market was welcome by landowners.

Several reporters, however, commented that the sawtimber market was "good" and that the pulpwood market was "beginning to firm up." Perhaps as a bit of insurance, Mississippi mills were competing for "winter logging" with new intensity, this especially seemed the case in north Mississippi.

Consultants with timber on the market seemed pleased with the number of bids received. One sale in north Mississippi reported a standing pine sawtimber price at \$655/MBF, D.

The pine lumber market continued good but most mills reported good log inventories. The hardwood lumber market also continues to firm as mills reported being able to sell most all they were producing. Red oak lumber sales were reported good and lumber market conditions are more active than usual for this time of year. Ash lumber sales were reported good and poplar sales were "brisk".

Pulpwood

Reporters seemed more optimistic about the pulpwood market but prices remained about the same. Pulpwood prices decreased a bit statewide, but the outlook for pulpwood appears to be brighter for 2000.

Other Comments

Southern pine beetle activity remains hard to find. No SPB activity was reported but several reporters in south Mississippi commented about "spotty" Ips beetle damage.

Would you like to receive Mississippi Timber Price Report (MTPR) information by E-mail? If you would like to receive a short version of the MTPR to your E-mail box send a message requesting this to the following address: bobd@ext.msstate.edu. We'll use your requests to create a distribution list to send this information to you.

The Mississippi Timber Price Report is now available on the World Wide Web. It can be accessed through the Mississippi State University Extension Service Homepage at <<http://www.ext.msstate.edu>>. Select "Agriculture and Natural Resources" then select "Forestry" and then "Timber Prices." Current price reports are available back to 1997 and other price data is being added.

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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DONT 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	377-553	448**	425-539	475	447-544	473	370-485	433
Chip-n-saw pine	-	85	85-97	88	88-95	90	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	550-699	615	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	168-235	191	175-255	187	150-220	173	157-185	175
Oak sawtimber	260-328	300	225-445	332	260-320	272	330-455	360
Soft hardwood sawtimber ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rare hardwood sawtimber ⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	20-35	26	18-40	24	18-34	22.50	14-26	21
Hardwood pulpwood	12-25	17	10-22	14	9.50-14	12.50	10-17	13

DELIVERED PRICES⁵

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	470-520	496	490-510	499	485-512	500	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	-	-	85-115	103	90-115	107	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	235-272	260	240-289	273	242-285	260	220-277	255
Oak sawtimber	331-390	377	375-430	390	340-395	353	360-450	425
Other hardwood sawtimber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	24-58	43	29-48	40	30-56	42	22-45	38
Hardwood pulpwood	24-45	30	24-42	32	27-45	33	25-37	31.50

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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