



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

January/February, 2004

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

In the January/February period pine mills experienced increasing demand for softwood lumber primarily due to strong housing market as builders prepare for the coming construction season. Foresters reported increased bidding activity for good quality tracts of pine and hardwood though wet weather was a hindrance in some areas. Winter logging conditions prevailed and prices for good winter logging tracts showed a premium, as you would expect. Foresters reported "buyers bidding hard on quality winter logging". One reported sale in north Mississippi was reported at \$581/MBF,D. Average standing pine sawtimber prices moved higher statewide in January/February.

In the hardwood market, hardwood logs remain in good demand but oak sawtimber prices eased a bit for the second straight period. The following individual species standing prices were reported in the central price region: Spruce pine \$250/MBF,D.

Pulpwood

Standing price averages for pine pulpwood in north Mississippi moved higher while pine prices in the rest of the state eased a bit. Standing hardwood pulpwood prices also moved higher in north Mississippi while hardwood prices

eased statewide. Standing pine pulpwood averages ranged between \$7 - \$9.25/ton and hardwood ranged between \$5.35 - \$7.75/ton.

Other Comments

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.msucare.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	391-447	404	350-520	420	360-509	416	350-418	396
Chip-n-saw pine	62-82	68	50-80	69	47-75	63	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	494-594	543	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	130-205	170	160-177	169	100-200	149	142-190	162
Oak sawtimber	290-315	305	245-326	309	275-350	308	325-389	347
Soft hardwood sawtimber ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rare hardwood sawtimber ⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	17-32	24	12-25	19.50	15-24	19	15-21	18
Hardwood pulpwood	19-25	21.50	8-22	17	8-20	15	9-20	16

DELIVERED PRICES⁵

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	465-500	481	479-515	499	470-505	495	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	-	-	89-100	95	80-97	90	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	245-279	262	230-290	260	230-270	241	231-269	250
Oak sawtimber	360-400	385	370-420	392	350-404	381	415-465	440
Other hardwood sawtimber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	34-62	51	32-55	48	39-58	49	25-51	42
Hardwood pulpwood	30-58	34	25-55	36	31-56	38	28-55	34

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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