



## Mississippi Timber Price Report

Department of Agricultural Economics • Department of Forestry

Box 9681  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

November/December, 1998

### MISSISSIPPI TIMBER PRICE REPORT

#### 1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

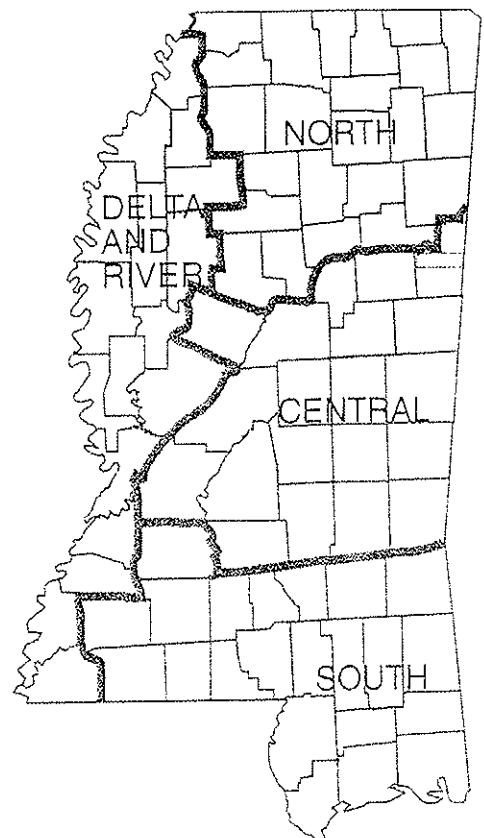
The Mississippi Timber Price Report is a bimonthly survey of stumpage and delivered timber prices in Mississippi. It is developed through the cooperation of public and private members of the forestry sector with the Mississippi State University Extension Service to provide an accurate picture of timber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

The timber market was generally slow during November/December. A mediocre pine lumber market, the coming holiday slowdown and lower standing prices for pine sawtimber since the spring combined to make the market sluggish. Many landowners were holding their timber off the market hoping for prices to turn upward. The sale activity was lower in November/December but average prices for pine sawtimber moved a bit higher. This is a common event in the Mississippi winter market.

Several reporters commented that their activities had slowed since early fall. The weather during November/December was a contributor. Harvest operations continued into December without significant problems. Mill log inventories were reported as good, but standing inventories in central and north Mississippi were less than desirable at several mills. Lower standing inventories caused consultants to report that they were wanting to test the market with a sale or two. By late December demand was increasing for winter logging tracts. Activity in south Mississippi was reported better than elsewhere in the state. One reporter commented that south central Mississippi had not received as much rain as areas further north and that made the market a bit better. One the pine side most reporters were looking forward to a better market after the New Year.

On the hardwood side, mill contacts reported good log inventories and steady lumber markets. Oak lumber markets were good for this time of year, but prices have been moving lower. Other species have been "hard to move" one reporter commented. Standing timber prices for mixed hardwood and oak timber held steady in November/December.

#### Pulpwood

Reporters commented that the pulpwood market is "terrible." Mills faced with lower pulp demand and prices were full of inventory and many dealers were on quota well into December. This is unusual. Normally, quotas are removed and pulp mills want all the wood they can get during winter months. This year economic slow downs in Asian countries, especially Japan, meant an oversupply on the world market. This situation has effected Mississippi's markets this year.

Most dealers contacted were pessimistic about the pulpwood markets improving soon. One reporter contacted mentioned that "getting a long rainy spell would help, but that's not all the market needs." In spite of the problems in the pulpwood market average pulpwood prices held steady.

#### Other Comments

No southern pine beetle activity was reported but several contacts said they were hoping for colder weather to keep populations down. They commented that mild winters can mean a beetle population increase.

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 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 P.O. Box 9681, Mississippi State, MS 39762

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

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DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE TIMBER MARKET COMMENTS!

STANDING TIMBER<sup>1</sup>

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	350-500	432	375-506	461	430-505	453	395-470	451
Chip-n-saw pine	70-88	80	70-90	83	80-90	84	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber <sup>2</sup>	130-210	170	150-245	195	150-295	220	141-190	151
Oak sawtimber	210-320	290	260-410	350	210-365	280	280-450	385
Soft hardwood sawtimber <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rare hardwood sawtimber <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	22-35	27	22-31	27	24-34	30	19-30	23
Hardwood pulpwood	15-25	17	10-30	19	10-23	18	10-20	16

DELIVERED PRICES<sup>5</sup>

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	460-500	490	480-515	505	480-518	510	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	-	-	85-105	97	88-110	100	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	68/T	-	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber <sup>2</sup>	220-260	240	240-290	278	240-295	280	220-275	245
Oak sawtimber	350-400	375	390-445	425	340-385	365	350-450	425
Other hardwood sawtimber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	26-45	41	29-45	40	30-50	45	24-36	35
Hardwood pulpwood	30-40	33	28-39	36	27-38	32	24-35	32

<sup>1</sup>Prices 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.

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


<sup>3</sup>"Soft Hardwoods" are mostly: Cottonwood, Willow, Poplar and Gum.

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

<sup>5</sup>Delivered prices are values given at the sawmill or pulpwood yard gate.

\*Only one price reported

\*\*See Timber Market Comments

  
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