



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

March/April, 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

Rains continued to make logging difficult and made prices high for accessible, quality tracts. Log supply shortages were common problems throughout the region.

Markets for hardwood sawtimber were described as “positive” in north Mississippi but some felt as though markets were waiting on the war action in Iraq. Hardwood logs are in good demand and oak sawtimber held its own.

Pulpwood

“The pulpwood market began to lose some steam” in late February according to one reporter. This was especially true for first thins of pine plantations in some parts of the state. Continued reports of poor prices for first thins have especially come from central and south Mississippi. In southwest Mississippi some foresters report improving demand for hardwood pulpwood.. In spite of some “tough going” in marketing first thins, standing price averages for pine and hardwood pulpwood in most areas moved a bit higher. Standing pine pulpwood averages ranged between \$5.75 - \$8.50/ton and hardwood ranged between \$3.50 - \$7.75/ton.

Other Comments

The uncertainty of the war with Iraq had many in the business community uncertain about the future and the markets reflect that uncertainty. One publication described the situation as “war and weather” as the dominant forces in the markets.

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

	<u>North</u>		<u>Central</u>		<u>South</u>		<u>Delta and River</u>	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	370-464	407*	354-472	400	350-460	408	375-455	408
Chip-n-saw pine	76-79	78	70-88	79	70-85	80	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	400-672	588	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	155-200	174	138-166	145.50	160-195	171	130-177	161
Oak sawtimber	272-357	301.50	278-382	341	262-350	306	389-405	371
Soft hardwood sawtimber ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rare hardwood sawtimber ⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	18-22	19.25	20-27	21.75	20-25	22	13-18	15
Hardwood pulpwood	17-26	20.25	15-21.50	20.25	9-12	10	10-15.50	11

DELIVERED PRICES⁵

	<u>North</u>		<u>Central</u>		<u>South</u>		<u>Delta and River</u>	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	440-495	451	459-490	475	440-489	468	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	-	-	80-104	98	85-105	97	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	230-288	268	227-275	262	230-277	247	228-290	250
Oak sawtimber	340-410	380	370-410	392	350-390	375	370-450	435
Other hardwood sawtimber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	27-50	45	35-55	42	35-60	45	27-39	32
Hardwood pulpwood	26-50	30	21-50	31	22-45	31	21-39	29

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.

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

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

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

Delivered 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.