



Mississippi State University Extension Service

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Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

Mississippi Timber Price Report

November/December, 2000

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 those 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 gloomy mood in the timber market continued in November/December. Dry weather and a declining pine lumber market helped create a buyers market for pine sawlogs. Many landowners were holding their timber off the market in hopes of better prices in the future. Mills were cutting back production to help ease an overproduction of lumber in the market and were focused on the uncertainty of the presidential election outcome and the Softwood Lumber Agreement with Canada. Many mills were also cutting their delivered log prices to reflect the weakness and uncertainty of the lumber market. All this led to mill closings, downtime and uncertainty about markets. Most were glad to take a time out at the Christmas holidays.

During November/December average pine standing sawtimber prices dropped another 3.5% statewide from September/October to the \$386/MBF, Doyle range. Pine sawtimber in north Mississippi dropped to \$370/MDF, D and the central Mississippi average fell to \$372/MBF, an 8% drop. South Mississippi pine sawtimber held relatively steady at \$405/MBF.

In the hardwood market, mills report demand for lumber steady but comment that prices are low. Red oak lumber is said to be selling well especially flooring grades. The hardwood industry is approaching the slow season as the holidays approach. Standing prices for mixed hardwood and oak timber held steady or moved lower in November/December.

Pulpwood

Mississippi's pulpwood market remained slow. Stumpage prices remained in the range of \$6 to \$7.50/ton for pine and \$2 to 4/ton for hardwood.

Other Comments

The Softwood Lumber Agreement remained on the minds of most timber market watchers in Mississippi since the pine lumber business is so pivotal to the forest economy in Mississippi. In 1999 for example, pine sawlogs, plywood logs and poles accounted for 63% of the value of Mississippi's timber harvest.

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 add your email address to a distribution list to send this information to you.

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 at <<http://www.ext.msstate.edu>>. Select "Agriculture and Natural Resources" then select "Forestry" and then "Timber Prices." Individual price reports is 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.

MISSISSIPPI TIMBER PRICE REPORT, November/December, 2000
 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	358-416	370	367-430	400	340-420	405	355-410	397
Chip-n-saw pine	70-85	80	68-80	76	65-85	78	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	550-600	580	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	130-220	165	100-200	146.75	100-200	131.50	100-180	148
Oak sawtimber	-	280*	270-320	300	-	-	304-350	334
Soft hardwood sawtimber ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rare hardwood sawtimber ⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	18-28	22	18-20	18.25	15-20	17.25	15-18	16
Hardwood pulpwood	8-12	10.50	7-10	9.50	8-10	9.50	-	11

DELIVERED PRICES⁵

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	440-485	460	450-480	470	450-482	470	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	-	-	79-99	89	75-100	90	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	220-280	265	230-260	250	235-265	245	240-275	246
Oak sawtimber	340-390	365	375-425	395	325-370	345	350-430	410
Other hardwood sawtimber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	25-50	43	31-50	40	31-56	44	26-42	39
Hardwood pulpwood	25-53	31	20-50	30	25-43	32	21-38	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 Cherrybark 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.

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