



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

September/October, 2002

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 pine sawtimber market was described as "not too bad" by several foresters. After a year of a softer pine stumpage market, reporters comment that there are more timber sales being offered this fall. Central and south Mississippi are reportedly the best areas but the market is

described as “very quality dependent” meaning that good tracts of quality pine timber are bringing the most interest from buyers.

On the hardwood side, there were several comments of a stronger oak sawtimber market this year compared to last but oak prices trended a bit lower except in north Mississippi where prices moved higher. Mixed hardwood sawtimber

Some individual species stumpage prices reported in Central Mississippi were: Overcup oak \$138/MBF, cherrybark oak \$300/MBF, sweetgum \$183/MBF and cypress \$138/MBF. Individual hardwood species stumpage prices reported in the Delta and River region were: pecan \$130/MBF, ash \$300/MBF and cottonwood \$110/MBF. In South Mississippi spruce pine stumpage prices were reported at \$270/MBF.

Pulpwood

Pine pulpwood prices decreased slightly in September/October to the \$13/cord to \$18/cord range. Hardwood pulpwood stumpage prices moved a bit lower to the \$10/cord to \$13/cord range.

Other Comments

No southern pine beetle (SPB) activity was reported in September/October. A Forest Service SPB update in July for the region reports that populations of SPB are likely to rise in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and sections of North Carolina and Virginia. According to the report. The Forest Service projections for SPB populations, based on July, 2002 pheromone trappings, show Mississippi and eastern Louisiana may see some increased activity in 2003. Landowners are encouraged to periodically check their timber for SPB.

Would you like to receive Mississippi Timber Price Report (MTPR) information by E-mail? If you would like to receive a notice 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. 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 is added continually.

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	358-481	391	380-470	414	300-461	385	370-400	380
Chip-n-saw pine	59-79	65.50	70-75	71	-	78*	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	500-600	583	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	150-170	160	90-232	158	180-185	182	85-185	109
Oak sawtimber	-	300*	216-300	263	275-430	311	320-385	359
Soft hardwood sawtimber ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rare hardwood sawtimber ⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	11.75-19	14.75	10-20	13	15-20	18.25	-	-
Hardwood pulpwood	5-17	9.50	8-17	10	9-10	9.75	6.50-17	12.75

DELIVERED PRICES⁵

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	425-460	448	445-480	477	440-478	468	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	-	-	82-97	90	85-97	91	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber ²	240-279	255	245-280	265	238-270	255	210-244	230
Oak sawtimber	340-392	353	360-425	385	345-385	360	390-480	440
Other hardwood sawtimber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	37-51	43	35-50	41	37-50	43	29-44	34
Hardwood pulpwood	21-38	26	25-53	29	27-45	31	30-38	32

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.