

# Status and Trends in Production and Trade in Forest Products in the Russian Federation

## Economic situation

In 2000 the process of stabilization of economic situation was going on and the industrial product output in the country in general and in the forest and forest products sector in particular continued to grow.

Over the first half of 2000 the gross domestic product of the Russian Federation increased by 8.4 % against the same period of the previous year, the output of industrial products increased by 10.3 %. Over this period there was an increase in export volumes, retail turnover, population incomes.

In the forest and forest products sector over the period of January-June 2000 the volumes of wood removal increased by 10.4 % against the same period of 1999, production of sawnwood increased by 10.5 %, plywood – by 16.0 %, particle board – by 22.3 %, fiberboard – by 19.2%, paper – by 16.1 %, paperboard – by 27.2%.

## Export of roundwood

Roundwood occupies a leading position in Russian forest export. In 1999 its share in total currency earnings from forest products export accounted for 36 %.

In 1999 export of roundwood amounted to 27.6 mln m<sup>3</sup>, which is 138 % as compared with 1998.

The structure of production and export of roundwood by assortments is presented in Table 1

*Table 1*

*Production and export of roundwood in 1999*

	Production, ths m <sup>3</sup>	Export, ths m <sup>3</sup>	Share of export in total output, %
Softwood logs	37100	12400	33.4
Hardwood logs	10100	200	2
Coniferous pulpwood	24300	7200	29.6
Broadleaved	14400	7800	54.2

pulpwood			
Other roundwood	3800	-	-

As it is clear from Table 1, the major share of the total sawlog export are softwood logs - 98 %. As regards pulpwood export, the share of broad-leaved pulpwood is 52 %, coniferous – 48 %.

In the first half of 2000 exports of roundwood accounted for 15.5 mln m<sup>3</sup>, which is 12.2 % higher as compared with 1999 level. The main countries importing Russian roundwood, are: Finland and Japan, their share in total roundwood export is over 50 %. These countries are followed by China, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Germany.

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### Export of sawnwood

Sawnwood accounts for 19% of the total currency earnings. Mainly sawn softwood is exported – over 90%. In 1999 the total export of sawnwood accounted for 6.4 mln m<sup>3</sup>, which is 36% more, compared with 1998.

In the first half of 2000 export of sawnwood amounted to 3.9 mln m<sup>3</sup> or 130% as compared with the first half of 1999.

The main countries importing sawn softwood from Russia are: Egypt, Japan, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands, France, Finland, Baltic countries.

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### Plywood export

In the recent years export of plywood from Russia has been stable: in 1997 – 631 ths m<sup>3</sup>, in 1998 – 737 ths m<sup>3</sup>, in 1999 – 913 ths m<sup>3</sup>, in the first half of 2000 – 512 ths m<sup>3</sup>.

The main countries importing plywood from Russia are: USA, Great Britain, Egypt, Ireland, Estonia, Germany, Italy.

### Export of wood-based panels

Export of wood-based panels from Russia is not considerable as the major share of its output is consumed within the country. In 1999 export of particle board accounted for 95 ths m<sup>3</sup>, export of fiberboard – 246 ths m<sup>3</sup>. In 2000 some increase in export of wood-based panels is expected. The main countries, importing wood-based panels from Russia are: CIS countries, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Italy, USA, Estonia.

*Forecast of production and export of forest products*  
*for 2000-2001*

Taking account of the general economic situation in the country and the Government Programme further growth of the gross domestic product and industrial output can be expected in the second half of 2000 and in 2001. According to estimate under these conditions further growth of forest products output is also expected. The general data on production and trade in forest products for 2000 and 2001 is presented in Table 2.