

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

Economic situation

In 2001 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 2001 the gross domestic product of the Russian Federation increased by 5.4% against the same period of the previous year, the output of industrial product increased by 5.5%. Over this period there was an increase in export volumes, retail turnover, population incomes, investment in fixed capital.

In the forest and forest products sector over the period of January-June 2001 the volume of production of plywood increased by 5%, particle board – by 8.1%, fiberboard – by 1.4%, paper – by 2.5%, paperboard – by 13.8%.

Export of roundwood

Roundwood occupies one of the leading positions in Russian forest export. In 2000 its share in total currency earnings from forest products export accounted for 32.8%.

In 2000 export of roundwood amounted to 30.8 mln cum, which is 111.6% higher as compared with 1999.

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

Table 1

Production and export of roundwood in 2000

	Production, 1000 cum	Export, 1000 cum	Share of export in total output, %
Softwood logs	39700	11500	29
Hardwood logs	10000	200	2
Pulpwood, total	46400	17400	37.5
Coniferous pulpwood	30300	10800	33
Broadleaved pulpwood	16100	7600	47.2
Other roundwood	9700	600	6.2

As it is clear from the table the major share of the total sawlog export are softwood logs –98% .As regards pulpwood export, the share of coniferous pulpwood is 62%, broadleaved – 38%.

In the first half of 2001 exports of roundwood accounted for 19.2 mln cum, which is 24% higher as compared with 2000 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.. The major share of roundwood export to Finland is pulpwood, to Japan – sawlogs.

Export of sawnwood

Sawnwood accounts for 18.2% of the total currency earnings. Mainly sawn softwood is exported – 95%.In 2000 the total export of sawnwood accounted for 7,76 mln cum, which is 20.7% more, compared with 1999.

In the first half of 2001 export of sawnwood amounted to 3.9 mln cum or 99% as compared with the first half of 2000.

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

Export of plywood

In the recent years export of plywood from Russia has been stable: in 1998 it accounted for 737 thousand cum, in 1999 – 913 thousand cum, in 2000 – 974 thousand cum, in the first half of of 2001 – 530 thousand cum.

The main countries importing plywood from Russia are: USA, Great Britain, Estonia, Ireland, Egypt,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 2000 export of

particle board accounted for 135 thousand cum, export of fiberboard – 286 thousand cum. In 2001 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.

Export of pulp

Export of pulp from Russia has a dynamic character. In 1999 it accounted for 1380 thousand tons, in 2000 – 1660 thousand tons in the first half of 2001 – 895 thousand tons. The main countries importing pulp from Russia are: China, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Republic of Korea, Hungary, Germany.

Export and import of paper and paperboard .

In 1999 export of paper and paperboard accounted for 1998 thousand tons, in 2000 – 2253 thousand tons, in the first half of 2001 – 1350 thousand tons. The main countries, importing paper and paperboard are: Turkey, India, Germany, China, Egypt, Great Britain, USA, Lithuania. In 1999 import of paper and paperboard to Russia amounted to 311 thousand tons, in 2000 – 396 thousand tons.

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 2001 and in 2002. 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 2001 and 2002 is presented in Table 2.